International Institute For Visually Impaired, O-7, Inc.

OFF TO A GOOD START!

A Resource Manual For Parents of Young Blind and Visually Impaired Children

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The information in this directory is self reported by the agencies contacted. No endorsement is to be inferred by the parent organization, Early Years Education and Support (EYES), and we recognize there may be information that is not included. Readers are requested to recognize this as a first draft of the resource directory and asked to obtain as much additonal information from each service to assist them in decisions which deeply affect the lives of blind and visually impaired children.

The Authors
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Mrs. Diana Cuthbertson
Mrs. Charlotte Forbes

For further information contact:

Early Years Education and Support (EYES)
International Institute for Visually Impaired, Birth to Seven, Inc. (IIVI)
14 Gay Street
Newtonville, MA 02160

Telephone: (617) 527-0476

FIRST DRAFT, OCTOBER 28, 1983

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A Resource Manual for Parents of Young
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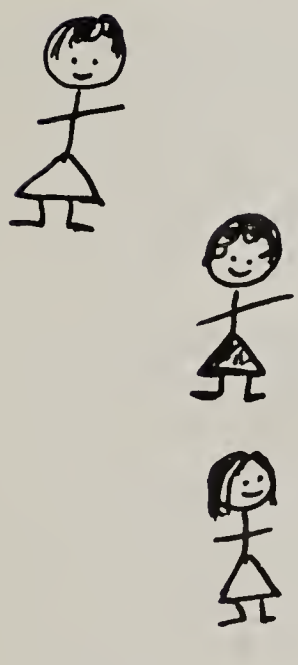

Written and Compiled by:

Susan Carson

Diana Cuthbertson

Charlotte Forbes

Illustrations by:

Alex Truesdell

Dedicated to Mark, Kate, and David
Our Children

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND
15 WEST 16th STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

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INTRODUCTION

We are mothers of young visually impaired or blind children. Behind us are those very sad days when we first learned of our children's vision problems. Now, as members of the International Institute for Visually Impaired, 0-7, Inc., we have recently established a Massachusetts group for parents of young visually impaired and blind children. We call ourselves the Early Years Education and Support Group (EYES). We, as parents, have discovered through our own life experience and research that even in Massachusetts there is no comprehensive source of information about services available to visually impaired children and their families. To begin to meet this need we compiled this manual.

This Resource Manual is tailored to the needs of parents. It is to serve as a basic guide for parents of newly diagnosed blind or visually impaired children, as well as to provide a list of resources that will be useful throughout the first seven years. We have focused on four categories of concern: medical, educational, social, and recreational services.

The manual is based on self reports the individuals provided us by answering our questionnaire. An agency was included if (1) it had previously served young visually impaired children or (2) that a vision specialist works with the agency either at the site or in consultation with the site. You should place your concentration upon services where they both have served young visually impaired children and they have a vision specialist available. There is no substitute for this experience.

Over five hundred questionnaires were sent out to agencies around the state. While we have attempted to make this manual as complete as possible, there are agencies and services we have missed. In some instances we received no reply. To be most useful, the manual should be updated yearly. If you have a suggestion for a change, an addition to the services, or learn that an agency no longer serves visually impaired or blind children, please write to us at the International Institute for Visually Impaired, 0-7, Inc., 14 Gay street, Newtonville, MA 02160.

For the most part, we have not visited these agencies, therefore, we cannot recommend them from first hand experience. This is your work. Call and visit any services that you think may be of help to you and your family.

Blindness among children is on the rise. Many more families than ever before will have to come to grips with the responsibility of raising a visually impaired or blind child, yet many parents will never see another child with similar problems during the course of bringing up their families. We want you to know that you are not alone.

If you would like to talk or visit with a parent of a young visually impaired child, call us at EYES, the Massachusetts parent support group located at the International Institute's office. As part of the Institute, we gain access to resources that have been collected for many years from around the world.

Our Parent Resource Manual was developed with the aid of many people and agencies. Sherry Raynor, President of the International Institute for Visually Impaired, 0-7, Inc.,sowed the seeds of the manual when she came to Massachusetts to begin Preschool Services at Perkins School for the Blind, where we all first met. She has been an invaluable source of information and support.

Mary Keefe, former Director of Vision Resources Services of the Boston Public Schools and now also with the Institute, helped us learn about the education of blind and visually impaired preschoolers under Chapter 766.

Jennie Mohr, teacher of social service research methods at Simmons College of Social Work assisted us in grappling with technical and organizational issues in this, our first draft.

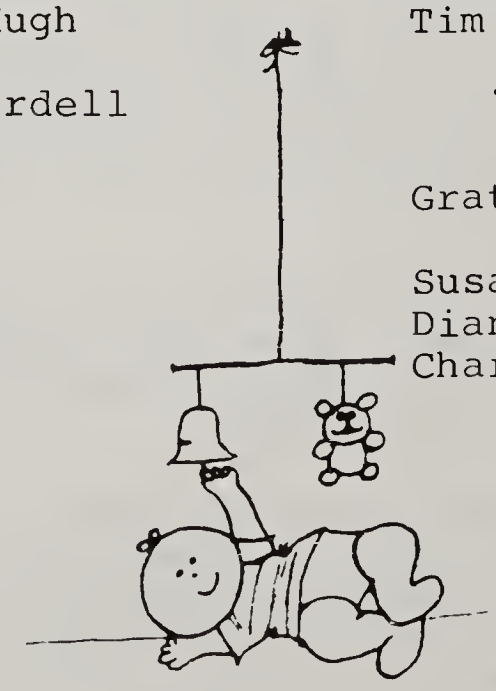
The following are other major contributors. A complete list of all those whom we owe thanks would be impossible.

Susan Becker
Debbie Farnum
Amalia Julian-Pomazon
Susan Lockett
Commissioner McHugh
Vic Mowtschan
Debbie Nelson-Gardell
Linda Norris
Ann Ross
John Stager
Susan Warshall
Tim Wilson

...and many more.

Gratefully,

Susan Carson
Diana Cuthbertson
Charlotte Forbes



MEDICAL SERVICES

All parents upon hearing the report that their child is blind or visually impaired are at first devastated. In many instances not only are the parents informed about the vision problem, but at the same time they may be confronted with other medical concerns as well. Often parents must come to understand a great deal of information about serious vision and other medical problems quickly in order to make informed decisions about the choice of treatment. You can learn what you need to know by asking questions and being assertive.

THE TEAM

Given such great stress upon the parents, it is very important that you find physicians and other helpers with whom you can talk in clear, understandable terms. You will need a whole "cast of characters" around you and your family. Among the two most important are your pediatrician and your pediatric ophthalmologist. Your pediatrician, the child's general medical physician, will watch over your child's total medical well-being. Often your pediatrician will not have previously encountered another visually impaired child in his practice and will need to work closely with your ophthalmologist.

The ophthalmologist is a doctor of medicine and is a physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery, specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and defects of the eye. It is ideal when the ophthalmolgist has even further experience with children. Thus, in a large medical setting you may be fortunate in finding a "pediatric ophthalmologist," who specializes in eye conditions in children.

Because of the many tests that will be done to follow your child, it is important that the pediatrician and ophthalmolgist can talk with one another and with you. Taking good care of your child is a team effort and all of the players have to be able to understand one another in order to provide a safe, effective plan.

As your child grows from infancy and learns to use any remaining vision, you may be referred to a low vision clinic. There you may meet an optometrist. A Doctor of Optometry(O.D.) is a licensed, nonmedical practitioner, who measures refractive errors, such as irregularities in the shape or size of the eyeball or surface of the eye. In treatment the optometrist prescribes glasses, contact lenses and exercises for eye muscles.

The final person concerned specifically with eye care is the optician, who is the trained technician who fits eye glasses to the face according to the prescription of a licensed physician or optometrist.

The Parents - The Most Important Members of the Team

The medical team will come to depend upon the parents and expect you to become accurate observers and reporters. For example, the physician will ask what your child appears to see, if he has any residual vision. If there are medical problems, you will be asked what you notice about your child-signs of growth or the beginnings of symptoms or unusal problems.

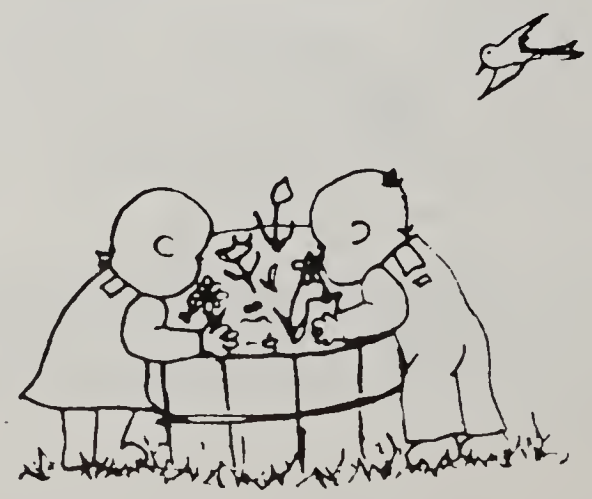
You will gradually become an "expert" in your child's medical condition. It is very important to be as informed as possible, but you do not have to become an "amateur" physician, taking on more responsibility than is safe.

You, the parents, are the persons ultimately responsible for your child's well-being. You know your child best. Be sure you feel comfortable that you receive answers to any questions you may have. Write down your questions before you go to the appointments with your child. Do not leave until you have asked each question. Sometimes there will not be a simple answer and sometimes there may be no answer to your question, but you need to share all of your concerns with your doctor.

If your child requires hospitalization, you should know that, except in very rare situations, you may stay with your child. In fact, your presence in the hospital will be very important to your blind or visually impaired child, who will have lost all other familiar cues from the environment. You will be right there to ask your questions and talk with the many staff members who will want to know about your child.

In addition, it is often reassuring for you, as parents, to know that you are participating in overseeing your child's care.

Finally, you will be surprised with your ability to learn about a whole new world outside of your normal experience. You will learn to deal with a variety of new people and unexpected problems. Have confidence in yourself and your own common sense.



SOCIAL SERVICES

After learning that your child is visually impaired or blind, it is important to realize that there are many organizations which may make dealing with the present and planning for the future a little easier. There organizations are called social service agencies.

When other problems are also a concern, such as finances, housing, and others, the services offered by social service agencies become invaluable in helping with the practical matters so the family may concentrate on their main concern. Other services range from advocacy, respite care, parent support, counseling, and information and referral to name a few.

Advocacy services may become important as a link between written law and services which are actually delivered. Advocates can represent or assist you in obtaining benefits or services to which you or your child are legally entitled.

Respite care services provide parents of special needs children with a qualified individual who will care for their child while parents attend to other tasks.

LEGAL BLINDNESS

You may wish to consider the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind as a key agency for you. If your child is legally blind, he should be registered with the Commission. When a person's central visual acuity is 20/200 or worse in the better eye corrected with glasses or if the field of vision is very narrow, the person is considered to be legally blind. This is a very important determination your ophthalmologist must make and it is his responsibility to report his findings to the Commission. Children under fourteen years of age with poor vision, but not necessarily legally blind may also receive services. Upon being registered a child care worker will be assigned. The services of the child care worker may include home visits, referral for other services you may need, and serving as your child's advocate.

PARENT SUPPORT

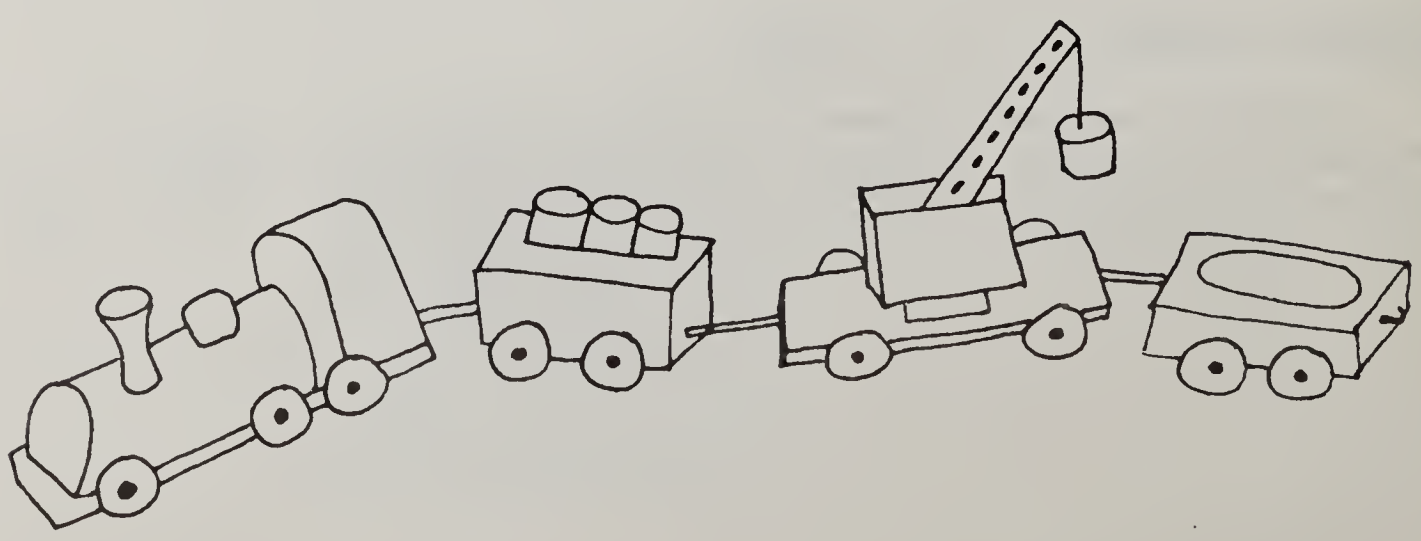
Parent support comes from many different sources. The most effective support may come from your family - your parents, brothers, sisters, and close friends. Tell them what you need help with and how they can help.

Established parent support groups are also available. Parents meeting together gives support also to the father, who may otherwise not have as many opportunities to share his concerns. Sometimes parent support groups invite speakers, who can teach about an issue, such as low vision aids. Other times a parent group might choose to make toys such as textured balls or drums for their children. Still, some of the best times are just gathering informally for dinner at family's homes for conversation, sharing, and understanding.

All families go through a grief process when they have a child with a serious vision problem. This takes time to work out. For some people this added stress seems just too much with which to cope. There is help available and we all need to seek it out at times. Trained counselors will be able to help you. They can also be of assistance with other difficulties, such as feeding problems, your child's upset around going to school for the first time, or working with developmental delays which you cannot seem to overcome alone.

You may want to call the social service department in the hospital where your child was treated to ask for counseling or referral. Local family quidance clinics are also a good resource, especially since there is usually one nearby. Your religious community often has trained pastoral counselors who can be of help, particularly if some of your concerns are spiritual in nature.

The social service agencies listed in the second half of this manual should be able to assist you in many areas. Check the description of each agency. Their sole purpose is to help you, so do not hesitate to contact them. If an agency cannot help you with a particular problem, you will usually be referred to one who will. You may never need to use some of the services offered by the agencies, but they are available and will respond if you call.



EDUCATION

Your visually impaired or blind child needs the services of an early educational program. Because an estimated 80% of learning is accomplished visually, your child has a difficult task ahead in learning what sighted children learn quite easily. An educational professional trained to work with the visually impaired can teach your child to compensate for his visual loss, and therby, help keep him from falling behind in his development. A young sighted child is eager to touch, explore and move towards the world around him. A blind or visually impaired child initially needs the world to be brought to him so that he can become aware of what is around him and be motivated to learn about it. An educational program designed with your child's needs in mind can instill in your child the desire to learn. Your child needs this extra help before reaching school age to that he is ready for placement with peers when the time comes.

THE EARLY YEARS

The educational programs available to your child vary depending on his age. If your child is less than three years old, you may elect to teach your child yourself at home with the support of a trained vision specialist, such as your Commission for the Blind child care worker.

Many parents who enjoy the support of other families may seek an early intervention program designed specifically for visually impaired children. Often these programs have two components. They may have a center-base, where you take your child and where there may be assistance from consultants such as speech and language, occupational, and physical therapists. You may also have an opportunity during your center visit to attend a parent support group. The second component of a specialized early intervention program for visually impaired children may be the home base. You will be visited at home by professionals working with you and your child.

Whether home-based, center-based or a combination of the two, an early intervention program tailored to the needs of the visually impaired child is primarily designed to help you, the parents, learn to teach your child. Your Commission for the Blind child care worker will know which programs are specifically focused upon children with vision problems.

A third possibility exists. Some children have other special needs beyond the vision problem. You may feel that you as parent may need to have more time for yourself or other family members. If either of these situations exist and you do not have an early intervention program available

that specifically serves only visually impaired children, you may find an intervention program that serves all children. It is still important that the program does not lose sight of the child's vision problem. Locate a program where a vision specialist is on the staff or consults with the program. Once again your Commission child care worker may be helpful in locating the most suitable program.

It is important to know that all of the options are open to you - teaching your child yourself, attending a vision program, or attending a program where children with many different handicaps are helped. You will have to decide which option is best for your family. If you elect to attend a formal school program, you will need to make many phone calls, several visits, and ask many questions before finding the right program for you and your child.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: CHAPTER 766

From the time your child turns three and until he reaches twenty one, he is guaranteed an adequate and appropriate public education by Massachusetts law, Chapter 766. At age three your child will be evaluated by a team of specialists who will do a medical, social, educational and psychological profile of your child. They will then meet with you to develop an Individualized Educational Plan (I.E.P.). The meeting will be held in your local school district, called an L.E.A. This plan, which is rewritten every year or sometimes more often, lists goals, objective, and skills to be mastered. It includes teaching methods, specialized services and materials and methods of evaluation. In effect, the I.E.P. should detail every aspect of your child's educational program.

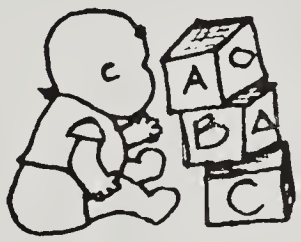
You may bring anyone to the meeting to plan for your child's education who will be of help to you. Your child care worker from the Commission for the Blind can attend and assist. Also,an advocate who is familiar with the laws and procedures can be of great help and is obtained through the Federation for Children with Special Needs (617-482-2915.)

Because your signature is required on the I.E.P., you must take a very active role in insuring that your child's education is the best possible. To be familiar with Chapter 766 and your rights under it, you can obtain a copy of the law to mark and study. Send $3.85 payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the State Bookstore, Room 116, State House, Boston, MA 02113. More helpful to you may be a parent handbook on the law which is generally available from your local school district. Working actively with the professionals on the team and learning for yourself what is

available to your child can take quite a bit of time and effort. Be persistent and your work will pay off in your child's education.

To begin the evaluations necessary for an I.E.P., you should contact the Special Education Director in your local school district. It is a good idea to call him or her six months before your child's third birthday so that you are familiar with the procedures in your town and so that the work can be started as soon as possible. Once you contact the local school district, they can help you choose from a variety of options depending upon your child's age and needs.

Collaboratives



Your local school district has its own special education classes and services, and often times also those of a collaborative. A collaborative is a group of school districts that have joined together to provide special education programs that they could not offer individually. If your school district is a member of a collaborative, then those services will be available to your child. Local school districts and collaboratives often hire itinerant vision teachers, who are special education teachers trained in vision who travels from one school to another. This teacher would spend a limited amount of time with your child and/or your child's teacher in helping her work with your child.

Some of the other options available to a preschooler are a Headstart program, or a day care center, nursery school or preschool that is certified for special needs. Headstart is a federally funded preschool program designed primarily for low income families, but which is also required to serve some special needs children. These may not always be recognized officially by a town for reimbursement under Chapter 766. These programs may be appropriate if a vision specialist is available.

Mainstreaming

While Chapter 766 mandates an adequate and appropriate education, it also requires that the services be provided in the least restrictive environment. This means that your child may be "mainstreamed" into a regular classroom, if possible. Special services are provided outside of or in addition to the regular classroom only if deemed necessary to insure an adequate and appropriate education. Mainstreaming will not start until your child is age five when other children begin kindergarten.

Your child may begin in a program that is substantailly separate from a regular classroom and gradually join his peers as he is able. Your child's I.E.P. should strike a good balance at allowing him to be with his peers in a regular classroom while still providing the special services he needs for a quality education.

Your initial efforts in obtaining assistance for you and your child will be just the first of many steps in the education of your child. You will want to visit programs, talk to teachers, and seek out alternative programs to find what is best for your child. Begin observing programs so early so you can make several visits and have a chance to return to ask questions and notice any changes. The task may seem overwhelming, but it can be accomplished little by little and every effort on your part will be well worth it.

As you make arrangements for your child's formal education,do not forget the important role that you play in his life as an educator. No teacher and no program can replace you. You are your child's greatest teacher, best friend, and most effective advocate. Because you know your child better than anyone else, you can contribute significantly to his education. All the simple skills you teach him at home, he will use the rest of his life All the information about him that you bring to his teachers will help them educate him. You are important in your child's education!

RECREATION

Because the role of the parent as educator is stressed so much in today's world, the activities parent and child may do just for fun are sometimes overlooked. This is especially true in the case of a blind or visually impaired child. There are always areas in development in which your child will be behind. Once one goal is reached, it is time for the next. It is important, however, not to forget to take the time for doing some thing for the pure enjoyment of doing it!

Almost any activity can be adapted in some way so your

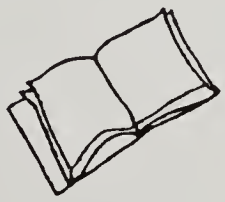
may participate. Use your ingenuity. These activities may be less structured than those you undertake as parent "educator", but they also serve their purpose. Your child will become a more confident, more social child.

There will be times when you want to place your child in a more formal program of recreation. The experience of being with other children is important for any child. It is invaluable to a blind or visually impaired child. In many cases, it will also be the first time your child may be in the care of another adult or be mainstreamed with other children.

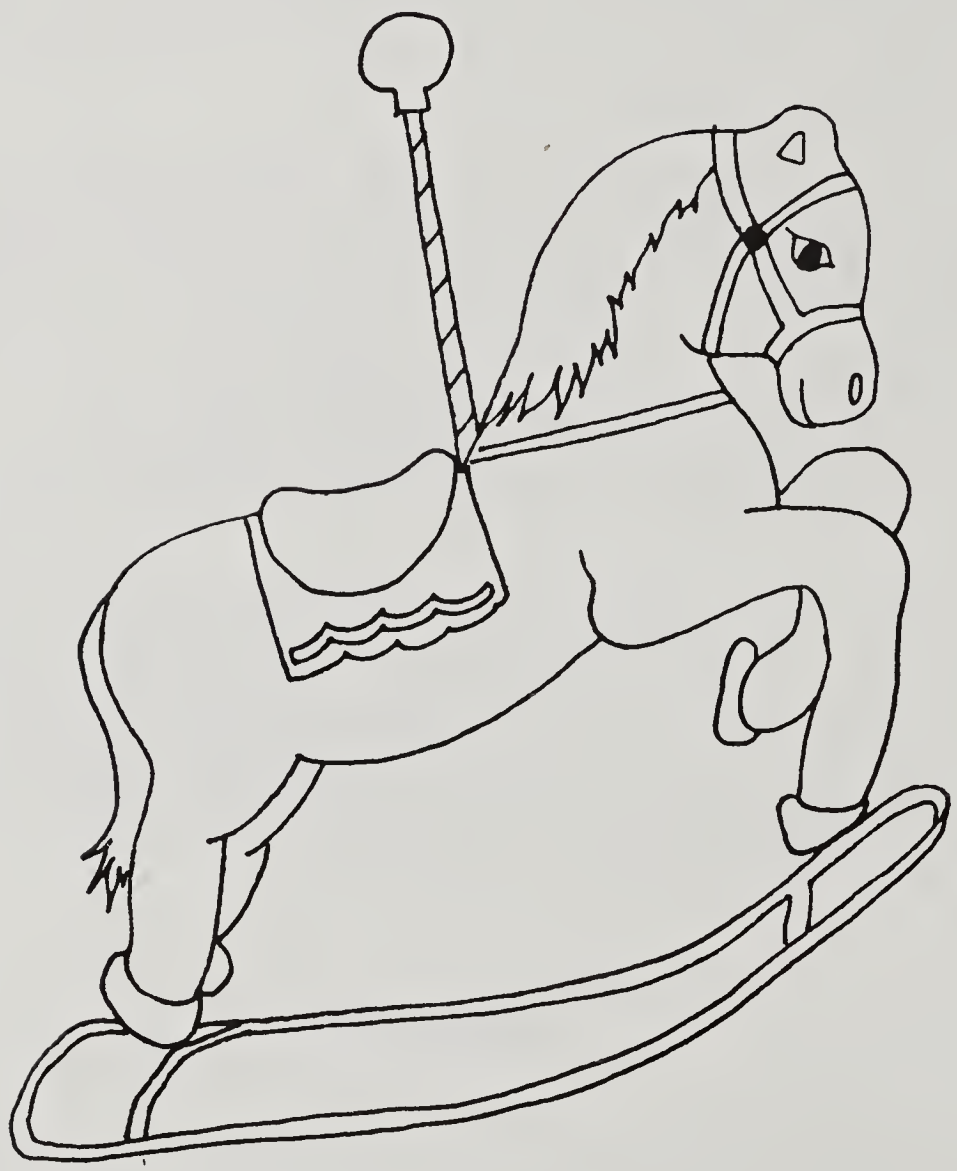
Do not be discouraged if your child does not seem to fit into the mainstream right away. It may even be necessary for your child to have private lessons at first. Just persevere. Remember, we are all unsure of ourselves when trying something new. This is not a unique problem to a blind or visually impaired child.

Listed in the second half of the manual are recreational opportunities in Massachusetts, including some outside the state which are particularly noteworthy. We would like to stress that there are, no doubt, many others available. We have included examples only of some town and city recreation programs. We suggest calling your local recreation department listed in the yellow pages of your phone book for programs in your area. You may find a source by calling the local YMCA,YWCA, Boys' and Girls' Clubs.

Some recreational organizations have programs specifically designed for special needs children; others will mainstream your child. A few examples of these programs are listed. If you think your child would enjoy a particular activity, consult the yellow pages and call the facility offering it. You may find the instructors willing to offer the opportunity to learn to your child.



DIRECTORY OF SERVICES AVAILABLE IN MASSACHUSETTS

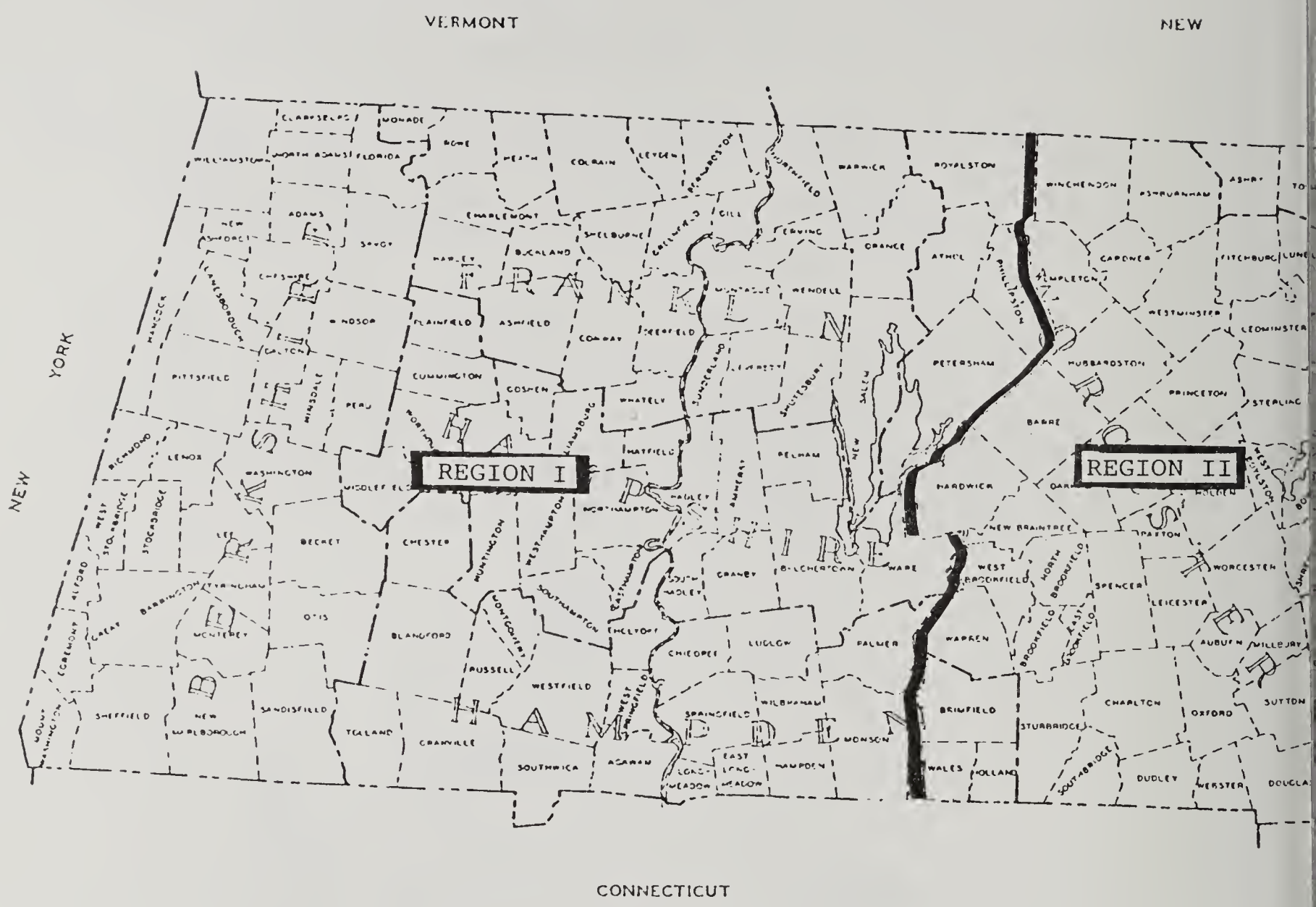


HOW TO USE THE DIRECTORY

As most of you will be looking for services located nearby- within a reasonable driving distance, we have used the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind geographic areas as our framework. First, locate the region in which you live on the map that follows. Then go to the section in the directory which describes services in your area.

You may also want to scan your neighboring region to see if there are services which may better meet your needs, even though they may be at a greater distance. Some agencies serve the entire state. They are listed following the regional listings. These are very important services which you should definitely read.

An index of services at the beginning of each section may also be helpful in locating a specific service you may require. Finally, you will notice on the top left hand corner of each description of each agency a group of boxes. The primary service(s) is represented by coloring in the entire box. Other services which the agency performs have a diagonal line drawn and are half way filled in.

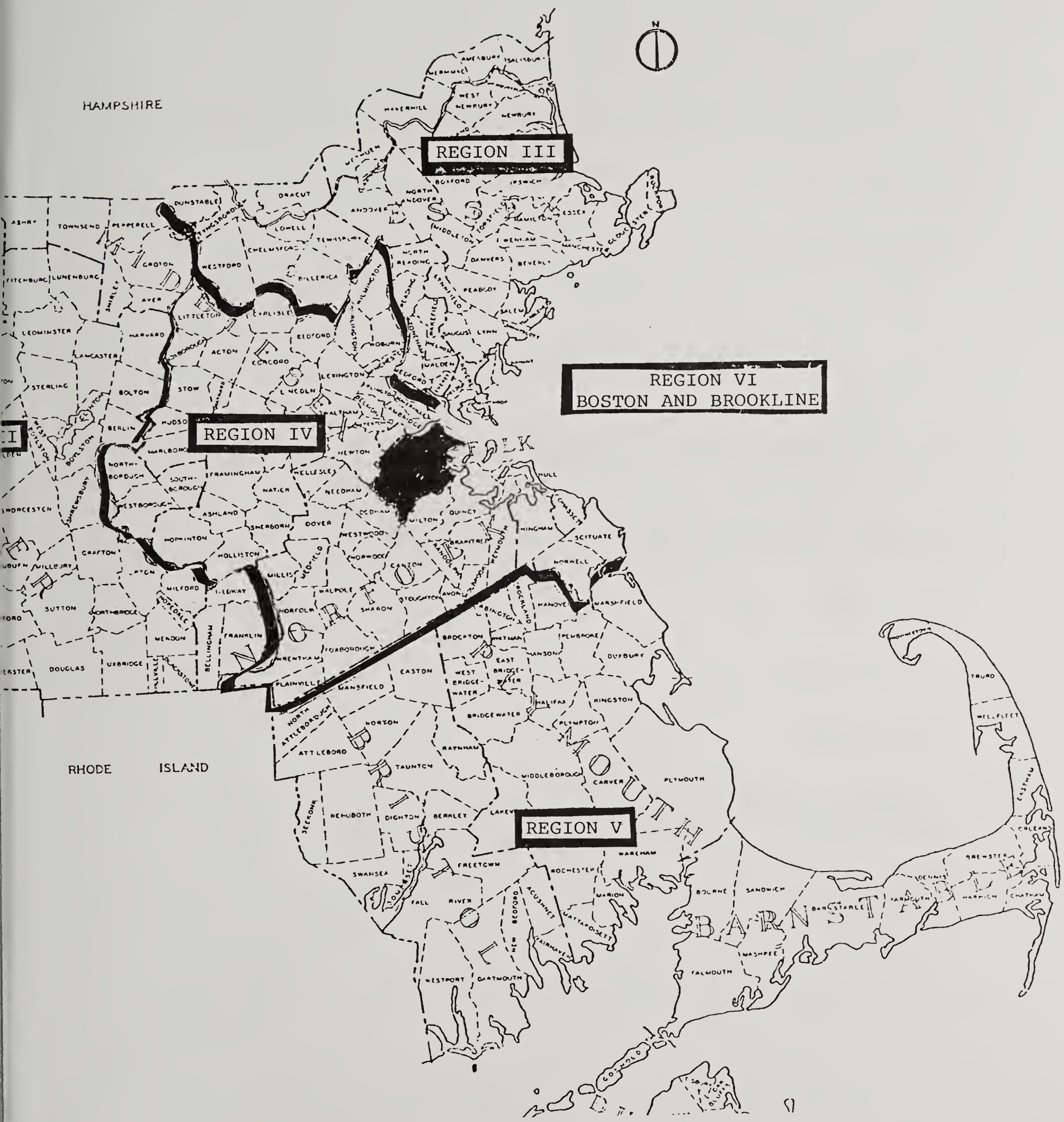


THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING

CITIES, TOWNS AND COUNTIES


HAMPSHIRE
RHODE ISLAND
REGION III
REGION IV
REGION V
REGION VI
BOSTON AND BROOKLINE
NORFOLK
PLYMOUTH
BRISTOL
BARNSTABLE
ESSEX
SUFFOLK
WORCESTER
N

REGION I

Agency	Services offered by Agency	Page
The Children's House N. Florence	Education	14
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Early Idendification Program N. Adams	Education, Social	16
Early Childhood Service Team (DPH) Springfield	Education, Social	17
Hampshire Regional YMCA Northampton	Recreation	18
Massachusetts Association for the Blind, Springfield	Social	19
Reach Program Northampton	Education, Social	20
Springfield Parks and Recreation, Springfield	Recreation	21
Vision Rehabilitation Center, Springfield	Medical, Social	22

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE

321 Locust Street
N. Florence, MA 01060
(413) 586-4538
Serves N.E. Hatfield, Haydenville, Williamsburg
Contact Sylvia B. Kriebel

Age Range: 2 years 9 months - 5 years.

Types of Children Served: All Children

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: This is a Montessori School, the Childrens House offers a morning class and an afternoon class 5 days a week to children from 2½ to 5 years of age. As a Montessori School, the general philosophy is that children are eager and able to learn at a young age and that children progress at their own rate. The children are free to choose their own activities and may work alone, in a group or with a teacher. The school is 766 approved.

Staff Composition: Director and Assistant.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 4 years.

Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Tuition is paid monthly or in 3 installments. There is a $50 deposit required on registration. Some scholarship funds are available.

Transportation: Not provided.

Duration of Program: School year.

Referral Process: Parents may call for information.

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LAW CENTER*

145 State Street, 6th Floor
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 781-7814 (voice and TTY)
Serves all towns in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties
Contact: Carol Booth, Staff Attorney

Age Range: All ages

Types of Children Served: Any person with a developmental disability.

Eligibility Requirements: Any developmentally disabled person who cannot afford private counsel.

Description of program: We provide legal assistance, information and representation to developmentally disabled people on issues relating to their disability. (i.e. special education, SSI, discrimination).

Staff Composition: 2 Part-time attorneys (each works 3 days per week).

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes.

Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Services are provided free of cost. If you can afford a private lawyer, DDLC will assist you in finding one.

Transportation: N/A

Duration of Program: 9-5, M-F

Referral Process: Self-referral, through state agencies, through schools, through parents.

* This office is a branch office of the DDLC at 284 Washington Street, Boston, MA

EARLY IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

85 Main Street Suite 628
N. Adams, MA 02147
(413) 664-4541
Serves Adams, N. Adams, Williamstown, Clarksburg,

Contact: Maureen Smith Jette
Administrative Director

Services Provided:

- Medical ☐
- Social ■
- Educational ■
- Recreational ☐

Age Range: Birth-three

Types of Children Served: Children at risk for developmental delay, Children identified with developmental delays.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: We provide a wide range of screening, identification and treatment services to children and their parents. Services include community playgroups, developmental screening & assessments;home visits, developmental playgroup, consultation with developmental specialists, parent information line;and parent support groups. Staff work in close partnership with parents and other service providers.

Staff Composition: Developmental teachers, 1 M.S.W., 1 Occupational Therapist, 1 Speech Therapist, 1 Psychologist, 1 Administrative Director, and 1 Program Secretary.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 7 months

Vision Specialist: Yes, Consultant.

Cost: There is no charge for most services. Assessments are billed to third party providers or offered on a sliding fee scale.

Transportation: Yes

Duration of Program: Groups offered daily/home visits daily.

Referral Process: Clients can call our office or be referred by physician, visiting nurse, social worker or other provider.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE TEAM-D.P.H.

78 Maple Street
Springfield, MA 01105
(413) 732-4062
Serves Springfield, Wilbraham, Longmeadow, E. Longmeadow, Hampden.
Contact: Rose McConnell

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

Age Range: birth- 3 years.

Types of Children Served: Children at risk for development.

Description of program: The Early Childhood Service Team believes that while families are the primary educators of their children, families with special children often need help. They offer help through a variety of programs including therapeutic, support and educational services. The educational services include home teaching, baby groups, toddler classes, parent groups and summer programs. among the support services are relief play groups and respite care. To arrange an initial visit, stop by or call the office.

Staff Composition: Coordinator, Early Childhood Educators, Nurses, Social Workers, Psyshologist, Speech Therapist.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, birth - 3 years.

Vision Specialist: Consultant from Mass. Comm. for the Blind.

Cost: None

Transportation: To center based program provided by Mass. Dept. of Education.

Duration of Program: year round.

Referral Process: Intakes taken by phone.

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL YMCA

286 Prospect Street
Northampton, MA
(413) 584-7086
Serves Hampshire County
Contact: Suzanne Walker
Sr. Program Director

Services Provided:

- Medical ☐
- Social ☐
- Educational ☐
- Recreational ■

Age Range: 3 months to Senior Citizens.

Types of Children Served: All - regardless of disability, race, color, creed, we are nondiscriminatory.

Eligibility Requiremnts: Depends on program - for most programs none.

Description of Program: Extensive movement and water skills programs for young children. Nursery School and toddler play groups, also a summer camp program designed especially for children 3-5 years of age including movement education, song time, outdoor hikes, daily swim lessons and crafts.

Staff Composition: Executive Director, Sr. Program Director, Aquatics, Physical and Preschool Directors. Additional part time staff.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 3 to 10 years.

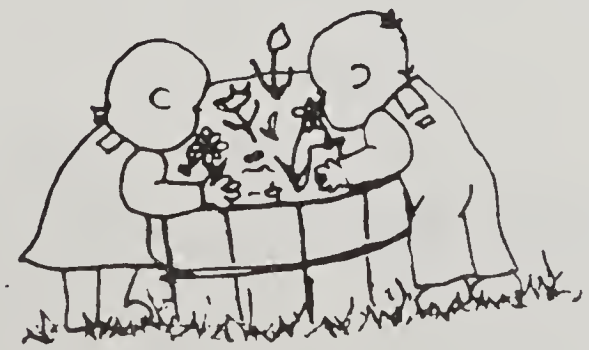
Vision Specialist: No response.

Costs: Depends on program.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: 4 or 8 week sessions.

Referral Process: Call YMCA.



MASS. ASSOC FOR THE BLIND

3 Locust Street
Springfield, MA 01108
(413) 734-7343
Serves Greater Springfield, Holyoke, S. Hadley, Pioneer Valley
Contact: Joan Walker, Coodinator

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

Age Range: Any persons with visual impairment

Types of Children Served: Visually impaired school age and up referral services to families of younger children.

Elgilibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Social work evaluation, information and referral, volunteer program, aids and appliances inventory and public information. We are also affiliated with the Vision Rehabilitation Center at Mercy Hospital, Springfield, MA.

Staff Composition: Social Worker, Volunteer Supervisor, Secretary

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, varied.

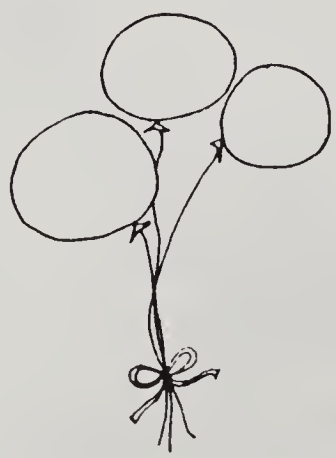
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: No fees-United Way supported.

Transporation: Volunteers provide transportation.

Duration of Program: Year round

Referral Process: Social services agencies, physicians, schools, family members, friends.



REACH PROGRAM

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

56 Vernon Street
Children's Center
Northampton, MA
(413) 586-8692
Serves Franklin/ Hampshire Areas
Contact: Evelyn Boykan

Age Range: 0-3

Types of Children Served: Children with delayed development handicapping conditions.

Elgilibility Requirements: None.

Description of program: Theraputic educational and supportive program for families who have children under 3 with developmental delay or handicapping conditions.

Staff Composition: Educators, Speech & Language Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Family Child Specialist, Nurse.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, all ages.

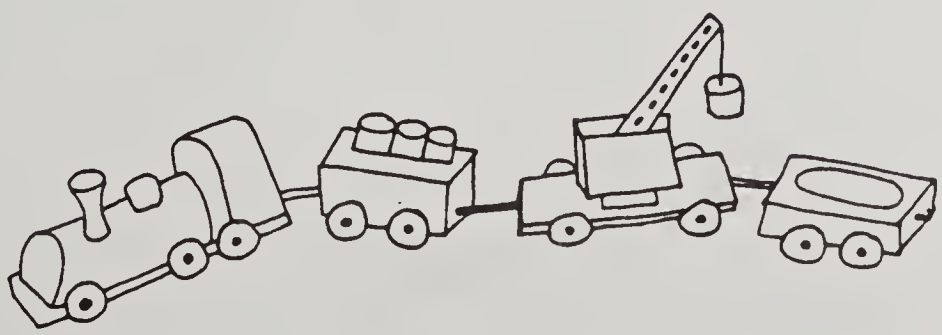
Vision Specialist: No, although we do coordinate with Mass Commission for Blind.

Cost: No

Transportation: None

Duration of Program: year round.

Referral Process: any one can refer with permission of parents.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

SPRINGFIELD PARKS DEPARTMENT

Forest Park
Springfield, MA
(413) 787-6434 or 6435
Serves Springfield, Longmeadow, Wilbraham, Chicopee
Contact: Tony Restiuo

Age Range: 3 and up

Types of Children Served: Persons with any physical or mental inpairment.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of your Program: Saturday day camp for children with disabilities. Activities include arts and crafts, sports, cooking, etc.

Staff Composition: Mostly College Students.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 7 to 17

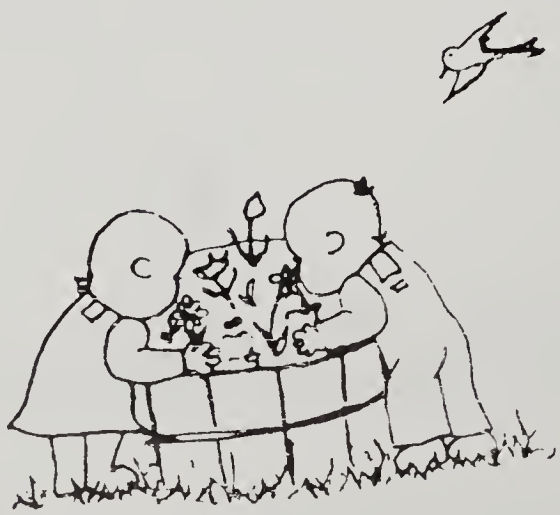
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: None

Transportation: provided

Duration of Program: November- May and July-August

Referral Process: Call ,we'll send application.



VISION REHABILITATION CENTER

Services Provided:

- Medical ■
- Social ◪
- Educational ☐
- Recreational ☐

Mercy Hospital
P.O. Box 9012
Springfield, MA 01101
(413) 781-9100 x5450
Serves primarily Western MA.
Contact: Joan Walker
Coordinator -
Social Worker

Age Range: 6 years and older.

Types of Children Served: Persons with Visual acuities from 20/50 to counting fingers.

Eligibility Requirements: No response.

Description of Program: The goal of the Vision Rehabilitation Center is to help the visually handicapped make full use of their vision capabilities. The staff provides optic devices and teaches patients the most advanced techniques in their application and use.

Staff Composition: Ophthalmologist, Optometrists and Social Worker.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 6 and older.

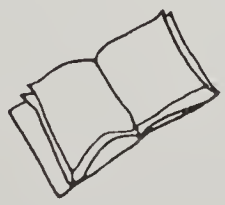
Vision Specialist: No Response.

Cost: $49,00 initial visit, $28.00 follow-up visits. Charge for any aids the individual needs. Assistance is provided in obtaining third party payment as indicated.

Transportation: If located in the Greater Springfield, Holyoke area, volunteer transportation from the Mass. Assoc. for Blind.

Duration of Program: Depends on individual patient. Usually at least 2 visits.

Referral Process: Physicians, social service agencies, optometrists, public school systems, families and agencies serving the visually handicapped. Recent eye report is needed.



REGION II

Agency	Services offered by Agency	Page
Blackstone Valley Educational Collaborative, Upton	Educational	24
Fitchburg Center for Brain Injured Children, Fitchburg	Educational, Social	25
H. Lipton Community Mental Health Center Developmental Services, Fitchburg	Educational, Social	26
Massachusetts Association for the Blind, Worcester	Social	27
Respite Care Program Worcester Area Association for Retarded Children, Worcester	Social	28
Services for Visually-Impaired Infants and Toddlers, Worcester	Medical, Education, Social	29
South Central Early Intervention, Southbridge	Educational, Social	30

BLACKSTONE VALLEY EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE

P.O. Box 441
Upton, MA 01568
(617) 529-3028
Serves Milford, Millbury, Upton, Mendon, Grafton, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Bellingham, Blackstone, Sutton.
Contact: Dr. R. Budde

Services Provided:

- Medical ☐
- Social ☐
- Educational ■
- Recreational ☐

Age Range: 3 - 21.

Types of Children Served: Visually Impaired.

Eligibility Requirements: No Response.

Description of Program: Services available in accordance with 766.

Staff Composition: Teacher Consultants for Visually Impaired.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes.

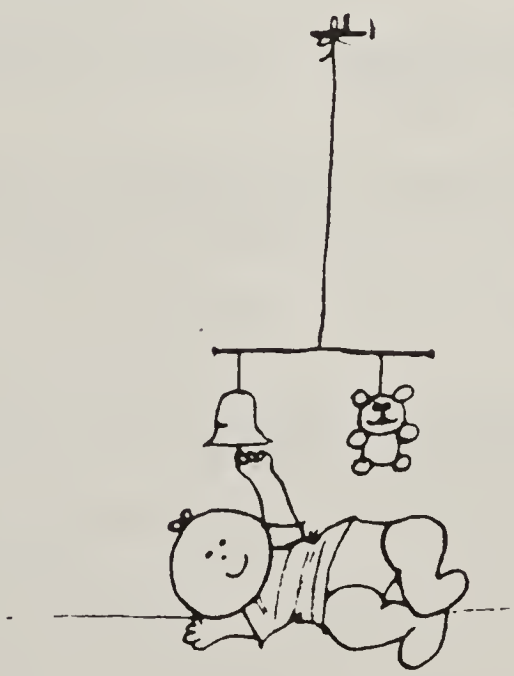
Vision Specialist: Teacher - Consultant.

Cost: No response.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: No response

Referral Process: Through 766.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☒
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

FITCHBURG CENTER FOR BRAIN INJURED CHILDREN, INC.

159 Richardson Road
Fitchburg, MA
(617) 345-0159 or 345-0340
Serves 65 mile radius or more in Montachusetts area.
Contact: Viola Dufour or Gustav Stewart, III

Age Range: 3 - 21 under Dept. of Education
0 - 16 under Office for Children License.

Types of Children Served: Severe/profound multihandicapped usually.

Eligibility Requirements: Children enrolled do not have to have any special abilities.

Description of Program: The Fitchburg Center for Brain Injured Children offers a year round day program for multihandicapped children who have suffered a serious neurological insult. The students are primarily pre-school age with significant motor and/or sensory delays. Many of the children are blind or visually impaired. The Center is a 766 State Approved Private School.

Staff Composition: 1 on 1 at all times, often 5 adults on 1 child at one time.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: All our students are visually impaired. We have served deaf/blind also.

Vision Specialist: Yes.

Cost: As promulgated by the Rate Setting Commission. Presently, $12,817 annually.

Transportation: As contracted with local L.E.A.s.

Duration of Program: 50 week year - 5 day week, 6 hours per day.

Referral Process: Via parents, schools, D.M.H., D.P.H., or physicians.

H. LIPTON COMMUNITY MHC-
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

545 Westminister Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
(617) 343-6957
Serves Ashby, Ayre (including Fort Devins), Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Fitchburg, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunnenberg, Shirley
Contact: Ms. Harri Thibeault RN MS
Coordinator

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

Age Range: Birth to 3 years

Types of Children Served: At risk for or experiencing developmental delays.

Eligibility Requirements: Live or work in catchment area; under 3 years of age.

Description of program: The Early Intervention Program serves children at risk and their families. Initially services are provided at home and later as part of a center-based program. Some children may receive home and classroom services and support, the team is also involved in casefinding.

Staff Composition: Early Childhood Educator, Child & Maternal Health Specialist, Social Worker, Clinical Psychologist, P.T., O.T., Speech Terapist, 2 Child Psychiatrists.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, under three years.

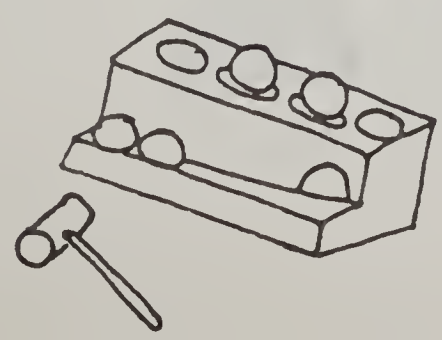
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: 3rd party payment sought - fee for service if able.

Transportation: D.O.E. transportations can be arranged if necessary (centerbase program only).

Duration of Program: from entry until 3 years or is developmentally or target for age.

Referral Process: Telephone contact by parent or agency, etc.



MASS ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

51 Harvard Street
Worcester, MA 01609
(617) 791-8237
Serves Worcester County - all
Contact: Lois S. Feldman,
Regional Director

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

Age Range: young adult up.

Types of Children Served: Presently serve one infant, one 10-year old blind student and one 15 year old, both in public school.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Information & Referral, Advocacy, Public Education on Blindness, Volunteer Services, Aids Store, Telephone Info, Group Activities (Leisure Time - eg: softball, bowling trips, etc.).

Staff Composition: 1 Intake & Referral worker, 2 Volunteer Department, 2 Community Affairs (P/R etc), 1 Regional Director, 1 Secretary.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: See above.

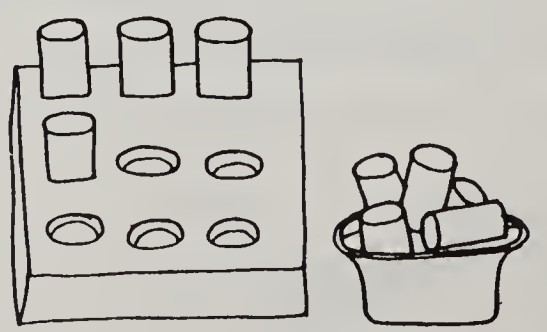
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: None.

Transportation: See Memorial Homes for Blind re: their grant.

Duration of Program: Year round.

Referral Process: Family may call directly. This is primarily an information and referral source for families with children of preschool age. Leisure time activities are designed for older populations.



Services
Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

RESPITE CARE PROGRAM
WORCESTER AREA ASSOCIATION
FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

50 Franklin Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(617) 755-2802
Serves All Towns of Region II
Contact: Irene C. Shea

Age Range: 0 - 60

Types of Children Served: Persons with developmental disabilities including the visually impaired.

Eligibility Requirements: At time of first home visit, the WAARC Area Liaison Representative determines eligibility for service based on Program criteria.

Description of Program: Provide short term care and assistance for disabled children and adults up to 20 hours per month, so that responsibilities and social committments outside the home can be filled.

Staff Compositon: Chart of Agency services enclosed includes trained respite worker and liaison staff.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes.

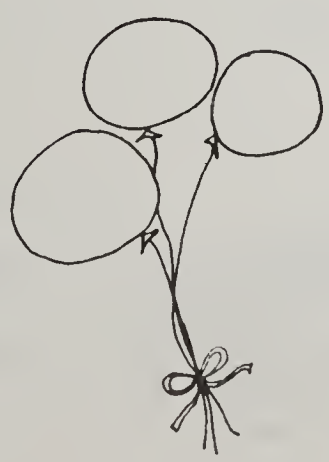
Vision Specialist: Yes.

Cost: Determined by income and involves sliding fee scale.

Transportation: Worker will come to home.

Duration of Program: No response.

Referral Process: Parent or Social Service Agency



Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

SERVICES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED INFANTS & TODDLERS

U Mass Medical Center-Child Dev. Serv.
Worcester, MA
(617) 856-4202
Serves Central Massachusetts
Contact: Bonnie Blair

Age Range: Birth to three years.

Types of Children Served: Those with visual impairments not inclusively legally blind.

Eligibility Requirements: Program consultanting - Central Mass based diagnositic services to anyone.

Description of program: Consultation, referral, staff training to service providers of birth to 3 years of age and/or parents of children. Children are participants of EI program. Clinic/diagnostic service available for developmental evaluation, program evaluation. Technical assistance and info.

Staff Composition: project coordinator, full-time consulting pediatrician and educators

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, birth to 3 years.

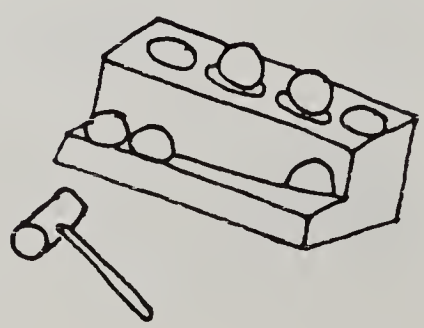
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: No fee.

Transportation: can be arranged

Duration of Program: N/A

Referral Process: Telephone only.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

SOUTH CENTRAL EARLY INTERVENTION

Harrington Hospital
100 South Street
Southbridge, MA 01550 (617) 765-9771 X488
Serves Brimfield, Brookfield, E. Brookfield, W. Brookfield, Charlton, Dudley, Holland, Oxford, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Wales, Warren, Webster
Contact: Jimmilee Prouty

Age Range: Birth to 3 years

Types of Children Served: Delays in motor, cognitive, social, self-help, speech and language development, or at-risk for delay children.

Eligibility Requirements: The team at Harrington Memorial Hospital's Early Intervention Program believes that parents are the primary educators of their children, and that the most important period in development is from birth to 3 years. The goal of the program is to assist children in reaching the upper limits of their potential. Among the services are screenings and assessments, a parent group for education and support. A multi-disciplinary team provides physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, early childhood education services. The program combines individual with group therapy experiences and center-based programing with home visiting.

Staff Composition: P.T., O.T., Speech Pathology, Educator, Social Worker, Child Psychologist.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, between ages of birth and 3.

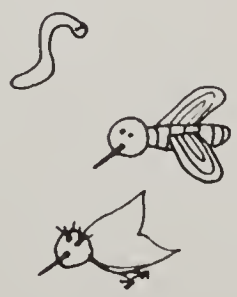
Vision Specialist: Consultant.

Cost: No response

Transportation: No response

Duration of Program: Not applicable

Referral Process: Parents may call for information.



REGION III

Agency	Services Offered by Agency	Page
Greater Lawrence Early Intervention Program, Andover	Educational, Social	32
Head Start, Andover	Educational, Social	33
North Shore Children's Law Project, Lynn	Social	34
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Project BEAM, Billerica	Educational	36
Tri-City Office for Children, Everett	Social	37
Visiting Nurse Association Middlesex East Early Intervention Program, Stoneham	Educational, Social	38
Windrush Farm Therapeutic Equitation, Boxford	Recreational	39

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND
15 WEST 16th STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

GREATER LAWRENCE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

33 Central Street
Andover, MA
(617) 475-7126
Serves Andover, N. Andover, Methuen, Lawrence
Contact: Sandra Levine
Program Coordinator LICSW

Age Range: Birth-3

Types of Children Served: Children with delay or at risk for delay.

Eligibility Requirements: Children under 3 who live in Andover, N. Andover, Lawrence or Methuen.

Description of program: This early intervention program is for children at risk for or exhibiting a developmental delay due to a physical, intellectual or emotional handicap. Educational and supportive services are provided for children and their families. An individual service plan for each child is prepared and regularly re-evaluated. While a day program is provided, a major emphasis for the infants is the home-base component.

Staff Composition: Teacher, Assistant Teacher, Social Workers, Psychologists, P.T., O.T., Nutritionist, Nurse, Speech Pathologist. (attempting to hire a bi-lingual aide).

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, infants - 3 years old.

Vision Specialist: No response

Cost: None for eligible clients.

Transportation: Can be provided.

Duration of Program: Weekly through school year and one month in the summer.

Referral Process: Anyone can refer.

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

HEAD START

167 Dutton Street
Lowell, MA
(617) 459-0551 X183
Serves Billerica, Chelmsford, Lowell, Tewksbury, Westford
Contact: Sharon M. Ahern

Age Range: 3-4 years

Types of Children Served: Low income, including special needs children.

Eligibility Requirements: toilet training.

Description of program: Preschool program which initially focuses on socialization then on learning new skills through individualized programs preparing for kindergarten. Field trips are an important part of the program families are involved through home visits. Parents also come to the center once per month.

Staff Composition: Director, Health Coordinator, Social Services Coordinator, Educational Coordinator, Mental Health Consultant, Special Needs Consultant, and Teaching Staff.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 3-4 year olds.

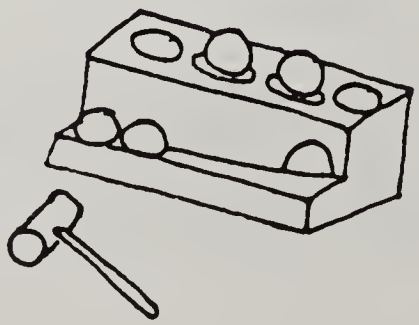
Vision Specialist: Special Needs Consultant

Cost: None

Transportation: Yes, usually.

Duration of Program: Regular school calander year.

Referral Process: Parents may call themselves and obtain an application.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

NORTH SHORE CHILDREN'S LAW PROJECT

P.O. Box 710
31 Exchange Street
Lynn, MA 01902
(617) 581-1977
Serves Primarily North Shore
Contact: Sara Mackiernan, Attorney

Age Range: All

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Represents young people in a wide variety of legal and administrative proceedings, including school matters and cases of severely handicapped children who are denied services due to bureaucratic red tape, as well as child abuse and neglect, run-aways, custody and adoption disputes.
Provides consultation and technical assistance to parents, attorneys, child advocates, concerned citizens and human service providers.
Training programs on legal issues affecting children available to service providers,state agency personnel, schools and community groups.

Staff Composition: 2 Attorneys, Legal Interns and Advocates.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes

Vision Specialist: N/A

Cost: Stipend if able to pay, otherwise free.

Transportation: No

Duration of Program: N/A

Referral Process: Any individual or organization.

NORTH SHORE EDUCATION CENTER, INC.

219 North Street
N. Reading, MA 01864
(617) 664-3344
Serves N.E. Massachusetts
Contact: Steven Carzasty

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ■

Age Range: 0-Elders

Types of Children Served: SPED, Mainstreamed, etc.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: NSEC operates a store front several days a week offering dozens of items useful in making learning games. Provide education materials (recycled goods from industry) and workshops and inservice to primary providers (Teachers/Rec. Directors/etc.)

Staff Composition: Director/ Volunteers.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes.

Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Low Cost

Transportation: No

Duration of Program: Short 1-4 session workshops

Referral Process: Call

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

PROJECT BEAM (Billerica Early Assistance Model)

BMHS River Street
Billerica, MA 01821
(617) 667-8300 X253
Serves Billerica
Contact: Jean Coppinger

Age Range: 0-3 years

Types of Children Served: Any child who displays a handicap (physical, emotional, developmental)

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: BEAM hopes to reach the special needs child early to alleviate or eliminate any problems and difficulties before he reaches school age. The center based program offers an individualized program in the classroom for each child. Activities are also planned for parents during this time. Weekly home visits are a time to work on activities determined by previously set goals. An evening parent group is held about once a month.

Staff Composition: 1 Early Childhood/Learning Disabilities Specialist, 1 Registered Nurse with teacher certification in early childhood, 2 Assistants trained under the original federal grant.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, two year olds

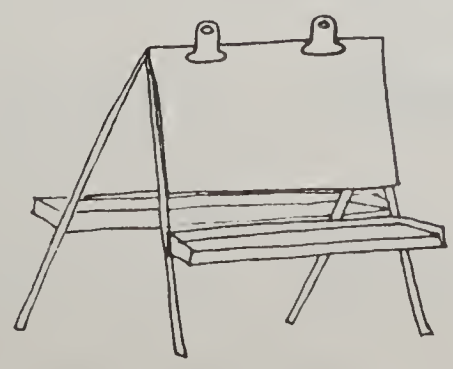
Vision Specialist: Consultant available

Cost: None

Transportation: None

Duration of Program: School year; home visits or phone contacts during summer if necessary.

Referral Process: Referrals are taken from parents, pediatricians, hospitals and teachers.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

TRI-CITY OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

132 School Street
Everett, MA
(617) 389-5075
Serves Everett, Malden, Medford
Contact: Dan Moriarity, Advocate

Age Range: 0-22

Types of Children Served: All children-families.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Information and referral, follow-up, individual advocacy.

Staff Composition: Advocate/Coordinator, Community representative, Secretary.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, All ages.

Vision Specialist: No

Cost: No cost.

Transportation: Not provided.

Duration of Program: Not applicable.

Referral Process: Parents may call.

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
MIDDLESEX EAST EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

East School
Beacon Street
Stoneham, MA 02180
(617) 438-3771
Serves Melrose, Stoneham, N. Reading, Reading, Wakefield, Woburn, Wilmington
Contact: Karen Welford

Age Range: 0-3 years

Types of Children Served: Developmentally Delayed

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: The Visiting Nurse Association offers an early intervention program to provide evaluation therapy and support. The components of the program are home visits, a developmental nursery school program, center-based mother/child groups and parents' evening meeting. A child is eligible for the program who has a diagnosed disability, an undiagnosed developmental delay or who is at risk for developmental delay.

Staff Composition: Nurse Coordinator, Occupational Therapist, Social Workers, Physical Therapist, Early Childhood Educator, Speech Pathologist, Mental Health Consultant Teacher and Nutrition Consultant.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 18 months - 3 years.

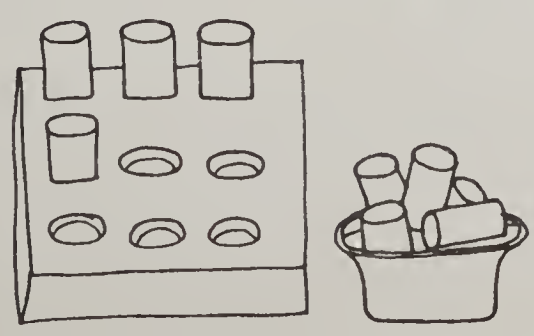
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: None

Transportation: available if needed.

Duration of Program: year round.

Referral Process: Parents, Medical Personnel.



WINDRUSH FARM THERAPEUTIC EQUITATION, INC.

Brookview Road
Boxford, MA 01921
(617) 683-1247
Serves: Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Hingham, Essex County, North Shore from Marblehead to Shrewsbury
Contact: Marjorie V. Kittredge

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

Age Range: 4 years to 62 years

Types of Children Served: Learning disabled, emotionally disturbed and a wide range of physical handicaps.

Eligibility Requirements: Must weigh less than 190 lbs all merits are judged on an individual basis - mental and physical ability that can be helped by our service.

Description of program: Therapeutic horseback riding instruction.

Staff Composition: 1 Director, 2 Instructors, 45 Volunteers.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 4-6 years, 12-15 years, Adult.

Vision Specialist: Certified therapeutic riding instruction (1 national certified, 1 cheff certified).

Cost: No Cost.

Transportation: Not Provided.

Duration of Program: Year round, except August.

Referral Process:

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ARLINGTON RECREATION

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

422 Summer Street
Arlington, MA 02174
(617) 643-6700 X321
Serves Arlington, Lexington, Burlington others
Contact: Kathy Binney

Age Range: 3 and up

Types of Children Served: All.

Eligibility Requirements: None, other than an appropriate program offering.

Description of your program: offers pre-school activity program, skating and gymnastics program for young children. Although not a special needs programs, may be appropriate for your child. Also have specific special needs programs for some age groups.

Staff Composition: varies, ratio 4:1 to 1:1

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, elmentary school age.

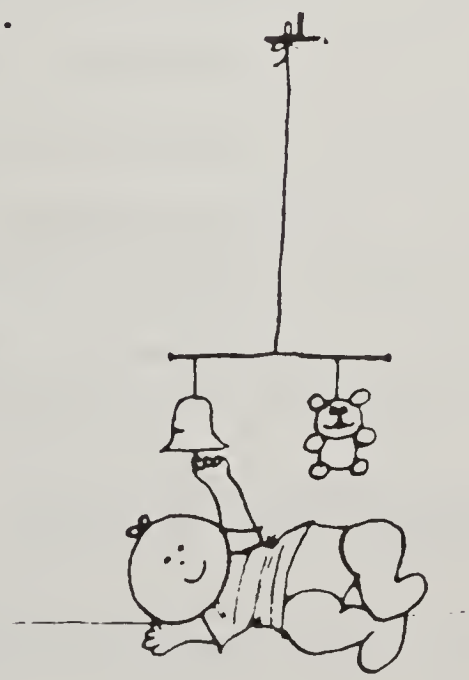
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Fees vary depending on program.

Transportation: No

Duration of Program: Offered year round.

Referral Process: Call office.



BAYLIES BEGINNING CENTER

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

3 Randolph Street
Canton, MA 02021
(617) 828-2440 x319
Serves towns within 1 hr. drive of school.
Contact: Pamela Parsons
Program Director

Age Range: 3-6 years.

Types of Children Served: Children with and without special needs - specific special needs include: Physical disabilities, perceptual motor problems, language impairments.

Eligibility Requirements: Ability to benefit from and participate in integrated program with non-special needs peers of same chronological age - children do not have substantial cognitive delays.

Description of Program: Integrated pre-school for 3-6 year olds. Maximum enrollment - 20 children (13 special needs, 7 non-special needs). Program integrates therapies into classroom program, and takes and intensive educational/therapeutic approach. Extensive parent component in program.

Staff Composition: Program Director, 1 Head Teacher, 2 Teachers, 1 Assistant Teacher, 1 Physical Therapist, 1 Occupational Therapist, 1 Speech Therapist, Community Liaison, Secretary.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes. 3-6.

Vision Specialist: Yes, at least for initial screening.

Cost: $5,632 - rate for FY'83 - Half the tuition paid by LEA's, Half paid by other funding sources.

Transportation: Provided by town for special needs children, car pool by parents of non-special needs children.

Duration of Program: 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.-School calendar and 5 week summer camp program.

Referall Process: Contact Director or Community Liaison person. Director: Pam Parsons-Community Liaison-Ann Brown.

BEDFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
DAY CAMP

Town Hall, South Road
Bedford, MA 01730
(617) 275-1392
Serves adjoining towns plus Bedford
Contact: Ilsa Gottlieb

Services Provided:

- Medical ☐
- Social ☐
- Educational ☐
- Recreational ■

Age Range: 3-15

Types of Children Served: Typical children, accomodations and adaptations for special needs.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Typical Day Camp, Computer Camps, Theater Camp, Bila Trips (overnight trips), Canoe Trips, and Story Telling.

Staff Composition: Teachers, H.S. Students, College Students

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes

Vision Specialist: Adaptive Physical Eduation Teacher

Cost: Varies

Transportation: No

Duration of Program: 6 weeks

Referral Process: Call or Write

EARLY LEARNING CENTER
(Early Intervention Program at
Newton Guidance Clinic)

64 Eldredge Street
Newton, MA
(617) 969-4925
Serves Newton, Needham, Wellesley, Weston
Contact: Amy Kahn

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

Age Range: 0-3

Types of Children Served: Multiply-handicapped, developmentally delayed.

Eligibility Requirements: none

Description of program: The Early Learning Center is an early intervention program with both a center-based and home-based component. The children have diagnosed handicaps or developmental delays. Children and parents meet twice weekly at the center and are visited once a month by one or two staff members. A parent support group is also offered.

Staff Composition: Social Worker, Speech Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, O.T. Consultant, Medical Consultant.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 0-3 years.

Vision Specialist: possible consultant.

Cost: bill insurance companies.

Transportation: provided.

Duration of Program: year round.

Referral Process contact:Amy Kahn, we do intake home visits, and arrange program involvement.

ELIOT CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

474 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02158
(617) 244-3639
Serves Newton & vicinity
Contact: Barbara C. Lane

Age Range: 2 years 9 months - 5 years.

Types of Children Served: All

Eligibility Requirements: Not accessible for wheel chairs, not set up for changing diapers.

Description of program: The Eliot Church Nursery School offers morning and afternoon sessions for 3 and 4 year olds. You can choose between a 3 or 5 day a week program with an option of an extended program for 9-2:30. The program is intended to foster creative learning and social adjustment for normal as well as special needs preschoolers. The school is licensed for special needs children and eligible for 766 funding.

Staff Composition: Director/Teacher, 4 Teachers, Student Teachers.

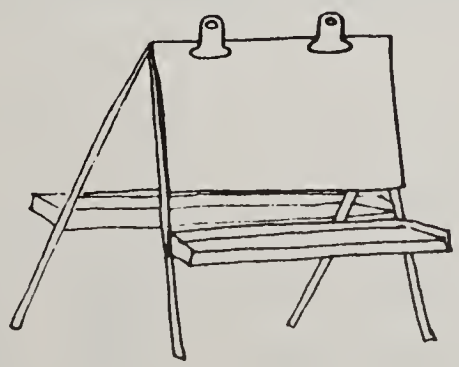
Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 3 and 4 years.

Vision Specialist: Yes

Cost: $600-$800 depending on program, some financial assistance available.

Duration of Program: 9:00-11:30, 12:30-2:30

Referral Process: Usually through Edco-Newton



Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ■
Educational □
Recreational □

ENABLE, INC.
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

3 Randolph Street
Canton, MA 02021
(617) 828-2440 X300
Serves South Norfolk County
Contact: Joy Sterneck

Age Range: Birth to Seven.

Types of Children Served: Any child with special needs. Area of expertise is the physically disabled.

Eligibility Requirements: None. All children birth to seven.

Description of Program: Community Resource Center is an outreach program funded by the Dept. of Public Health. It provides training, consultation, and support for families of young special needs children, their school mates, teachers, and other community staffs in their own settings - i.e., homes, nursery schools, day care centers, and public schools. It is hoped that through this training and support children can be maintained in the least restrictive environment. Our program does not provide direct service on an ongoing basis.

Staff Composition: A program director, two social workers, one occupational therapist, one physical therapist, one child development specialist, one psychologist, two special education teachers, and one speech and language pathologist.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes - one five year old. We also have three parents of visually impaired young children in our parent support group.

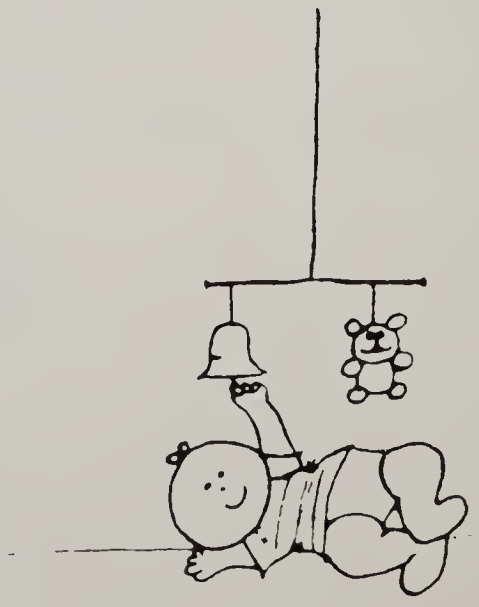
Vision Specialist: We have used Commission For The Blind as the visual consultant.

Cost: Free of charge.

Transportation: Non-applicable

Duration of Program: Non-applicable

Referral Process: Anyone can call.



FRAMINGHAM CENTRE NURSERY SCHOOL

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

24 Vernon Street
Framhingham, MA 01701
(617) 875-8260
Serves Framingham, Natick, Ashland, Sudbury, Wayland, Holliston.
Contact: Janet Moscarelli
Director

Age Range: 2.9 - 5 years.

Types of Children Served: Toddlers, Pre-kindergarten, Special Needs.

Eligibility Requirements: Fully mobile due to stairways.

Description of Program: No response.

Staff Composition: Early Childhood Training
One Special Needs Consultant
On R.N.

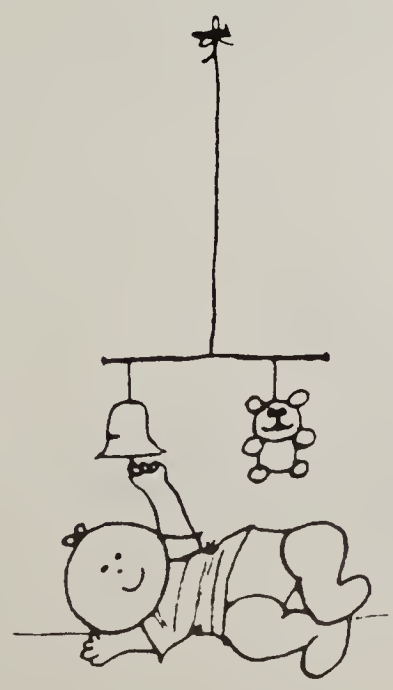
Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 3-5.

Vision Specialist: No.

Cost: See our rate sheet.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., September thru June.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☑
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

KENNEDY-DONOVAN CENTER FOR PROGRAMS IN EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Lewis School
Mechanic Street
Foxboro, MA 02035
(617) 543-2542
Serves Attleboro, Foxboro, Mansfield, Norfolk, N. Attleboro,Norton, Plainville, Sharon, S. Attleboro, Walpole, Wrentham
Contact: Judity Wheller, Team Header

Age Range 0-3 years

Types of Children Served: Children at risk: biological, established or environmental risk including neuro-muscular, speech, hearing or language C.P., M.R. or failure to thrive.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Home and center based programs for children at risk for abnormal development or who have identified handicapping condition.

Staff Composition: 2 R.N.'s, 2 P.T.'s, 1 Social Worker, 1 Speech and Language Specialist.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 1 presently, 2 years old.

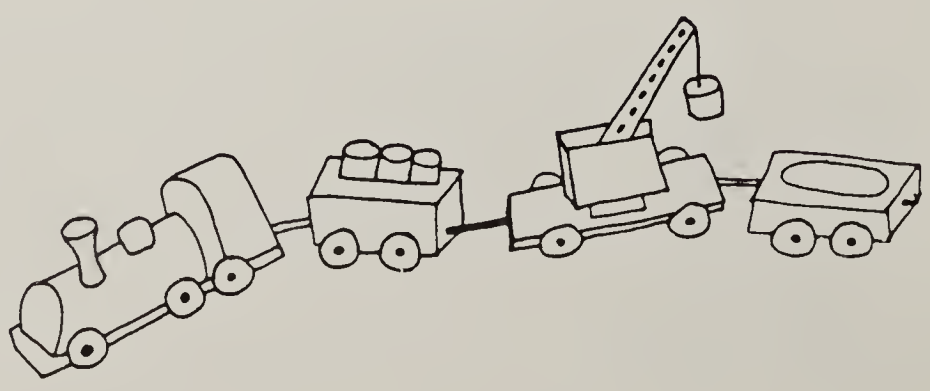
Vision Specialist: No response

Cost: Free

Transporation: To eligible families.

Duration of Program: All year long.

Referral Process: call to center by parent or other, or agency and we follow up to see if appropriate.



MAINSTAY: A CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

E. Militia Heights off Forest St.
Needham, MA 02192
Box 169
(617) 444-6634
Serves reasonable commute
Contact: Paula Brennan

Age Range: 0-3

Types of Children Served: developmentally delayed or disabled for any reason (Down's Syndrome, C.P., Neurologicaly Impaired, Rubella, etc.)

Eligibility Requirement: None

Description of your program: Early intervention education and therapy for 0-3 year old children and their families Parent group - advocate services - follow-up.

Staff Composition: Language Pathologist (full-time), Physical Therapist (part-time), two Teachers, 1 Aide with Teaching background (full-time).

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, ages 0-3.

Vision Specialist: No

Cost: 2% of annual income - annual tuition.

Transportation: none provided.

Duration of Program: conventional school year (center-based program), Home program year round.

Referral Process: Call for appointment.

MARLBOBO-WESTBORO EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM at Ctr for Better Living

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◩
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

57 Union Street
Marlboro, MA
(617) 481-2100
Serves Marlboro, Westboro, Northboro, Southboro, Hudson
Contact: Patrice Birenberg, Rachel Cooney, Laura Hausman

Age Range: 0-3

Types of Children Served: all types of developmentally delayed children and/or with birth defects.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: This early intervention program has a strong home-based component. One team member conducts regular home visits. As part of the center based component parents can share with other parents and observe their child interact with staff members. Parents may also participate in the staff child interaction. After an initial team evaluation, a program of treatment is planned for each child.

Staff Composition: 3 Social Workers, 1 Teacher, 1 O.T. 1 P.T., 1 Speech Therapist.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: three now in program - 10 months, 13 years, and 2½years.

Vision Specialist: Yes, Consultant at U Mass Early Intervention Program

Cost: Insurance covers our program, if no insurance there is a sliding scale according to income.

Transportation: available by Dept of Ed.

Duration of Program: All year - child may be in the program until he/she is 3.

Referral Process: Referrals are accepted by Dr., Parents, Social Service, Medical establishment, etc.

MYSTIC VALLEY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

15A High Street
Winchester, MA 01890
(617) 729-3094 or 3095
Serves Arlington, Burlington, Lexington, Winchester, Wilmington, Woburn
Contact: Leah C. Nazarian, Program Director

Age Range: Birth to three years old.

Types of Children Served: Children with or at risk for established biologic or developmental delay due to environmental factors.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: This program's purpose is to maximize each child's potential and support the family of the special needs child. Children are grouped by age into a strucured, therapeutic class. Parents join the children for part of each session and then meet together over coffee. Home visits are a regular part of the program. Parents and staff write an educational plan with goals for each child.

Staff Composition: Teacher, O.T., P.T. Speech Therapist, Aide, Nurse.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, birth to three.

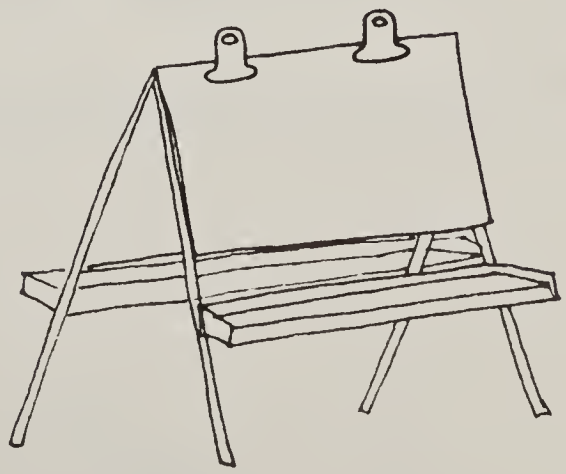
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Third party reimbursement

Transportation: Provided by DOE

Duration of Program: 12 months

Referral Process: Anyone



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR INFANTS

38 Union Square
Somerville, MA 02143
(617) 623-8402
Serves Cambridge and Somerville
Contact: Sheila Botein, Director

Age Range: 0-3 years.

Types of Children Served: A wide variety of special needs including diagnosed disabling conditions, chronic medical conditions, environmental risk or developmental delay.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of Program: NSSI is a home based parent support and early intervention program for special needs children under age three. Home visitors are experienced mothers from the communities served who are trained in child development. In addition to weekly home visits which focus on stimulation activities and growth and development information, NSSI also has a monthly drop-in for mothers. They bring their children under age three for child care provided by the NSSI staff while they have coffee and make craft items or toys in an adjoining room.

Staff Composition: Director (Early Childhood Educator), occupational therapist, pediatric nurse practitioner and three core mothers (home visitors), also an administrative secretary.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, to age three.

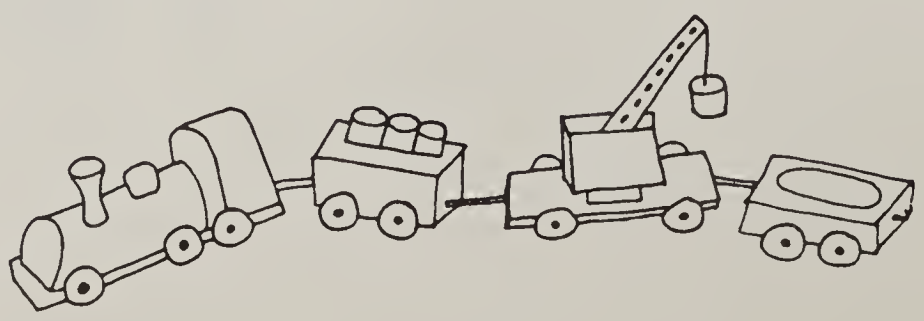
Vision Specialist: No response

Cost: No charge to families.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: No response.

Referral Process: Call the NSSI office and speak with one of the administrative staff members.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

SMOC DAY CARE

King School
Water Street
Framingham, MA 01710
(617) 877-1961
Serves Framingham, Marlboro, Natick, Ashland, and environs
Contact: Jeanie Lindquist

Age Range: 2-6

Types of Children Served: All types.

Elgibility Requirements: Children must be 2.9 years and toilet trained. Special need children are considered on a case by case basis.

Description of program: This center serves 58 children in three classrooms. There are 9 full time and 2 part time teachers all of whom have degrees or training and experience in early childhood education.
We seek to provide healthy, safe and loving environment which is conducive to learning and personal growth. We believe in the individuality of each child and strive to nurture the child's positive self-image, develop her/his potential to the fullest, strengthen family relationships, and create a cooperative, secure atmosphere in which to learn.

Staff Composition: As above.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: yes, to age 6 or 7.

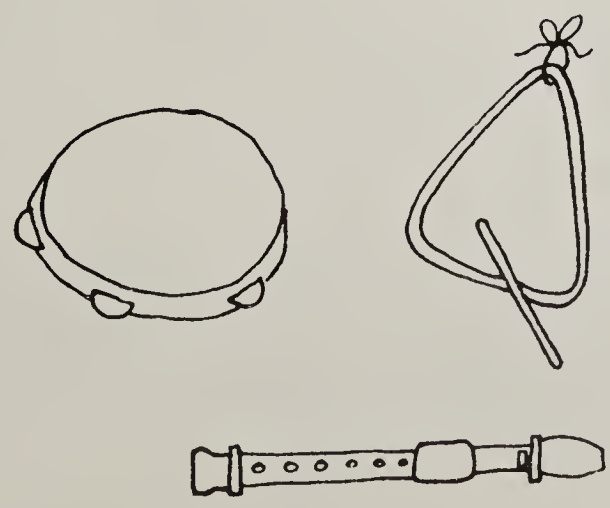
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: No response.

Transporation: No response.

Duration of Program: No response.

Referral Process: CallSMOC directly for further information.



SNCARC-EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

Box 552
Norwood, MA 02062
(617) 762-4001
Serves Canton, Dedham, Foxboro, Medfield, Millis, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Sharon, Walpole, Westwood, Wrentham
Contact: Susan Biagini
OTR, Director

Age Range: Birth to three

Types of Children Served: Children at risk or demonstrate developmental delays due to 1) premature birth; 2) a condition or diagnosis present at birth, or 3) whose developmental milestones (in one or more areas) are slow.

Eligibility Requirements: See above.

Description of program: The SNCARC Early Intervention Program is designed to support and encourage parents as well as teach therapeutic skills. There is a center-based and home-based component. A mother-toddler-infant group meets weekly to enhance socialization skills in the children and offer support to parents. A regular home visit is scheduled with the family by a therapist.

Staff Composition: Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapist, Social Workers, R.N., Special Needs Teacher, Speech and Language Therapist.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes.

Vision Specialist: Boston Center for Blind Children has offered (and we have used) consultation in the past.

Cost: DPH programs - no cost.

Transportation: Home based programs

Duration of Program: 12 months.

Referral Process: Child may be referred by any professional agency, parent. Intake worker completes form at time of referral and requests that parent call program directly. Within 7 days of parents call a social worker or nurse will schedule a home visit.

SOUTH SHORE EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE

19 Fort Hill Street, I Quarters
Hingham, MA 02043
(617) 749-7518 or 749-7519
Serves Braintree, Cohasset, Hingham, Hull, Norwell, Quincy, Scituate, and Weymouth.
Contact: Michael J. Savage, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

Age Range: 3 - 21

Types of Children Served: Multi-handicapped, developmentally delayed autistic, language impaired, emotionally disturbed/behaviorally disordered.

Eligibility Requirements: Referral from local school system.

Description of Program: The collaborative has many programs serving the moderately handicapped to the profoundly handicapped. There are also programs for parents. Specific services for the visually impaired are as follows: We employ an itinerant teacher of the visually impaired. This individual provides consultation, direct services, and evaluation to students. Our multi-handicapped program serves a number of visually impaired and legally blind students. They are served by a staff member certified as a teacher of the visually impaired. In addition, the itinerant teacher provides services to this program.

Staff Compostion: The staff consists of a full range of educational, psychological and therapeutic professionals.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 3 and up.

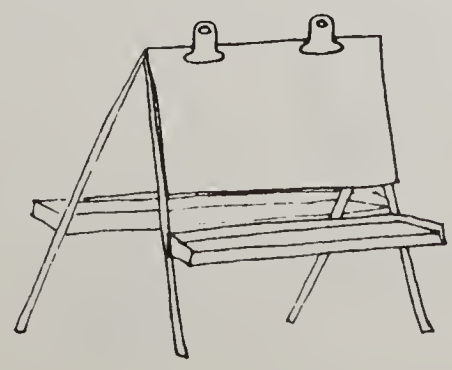
Vision Specialist: Yes.

Cost: No response.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: Some are school year, while others are 12 months.

Referral Process: LEA Administrator of Special Education.



WALTHAM HOSPITAL EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Hope Avenue
Waltham, MA 02254
(617) 647-6564
Serves Waltham, Watertown and Belmont
Contact: Lorraine Sanik, Director

Services Provided:

Medical ◪
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational □

Age Range: 0-3 years.

Types of Children Served: Developmentally delayed; premature; physically and or mentally handicapped; hearing impaired; language delayed.

Eligibility Requirements: Appropriateness for group as assessed by staff.

Description of Program: Home base and center base programs. Services are determined by child's needs. Child has home visitor from the interdisciplinary team. Other services may include developmental stimulation, children's groups, and parent support groups all designed to fulfill child's potential.

Staff Composition: Education, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Nursing, Social Work.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, ages 0-3 years.

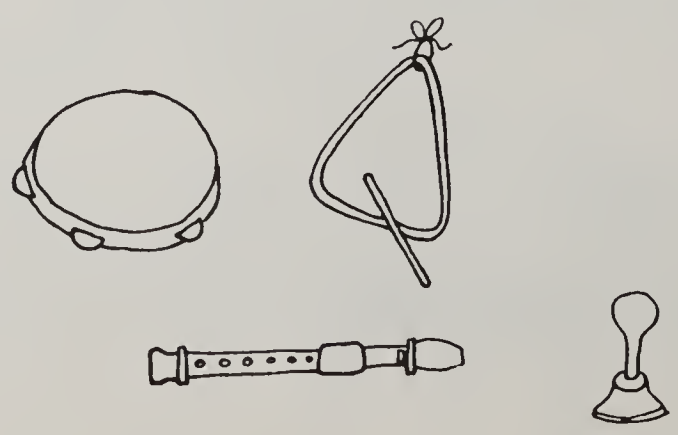
Consultant in Vision: No.

Cost: Covered by Department of Public Health and third party reimbursement.

Transportation: Yes.

Duration of Program: Variable.

Referral Process: Call program.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☒
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

WEST ROS PARK
EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM OF
SBCS, INC.

780 American Legion Highway
Roslindale, MA 02131 325-6700 X120
Serves Roslindale, Hyde Park,
West Roxbury
Contact: Sandy Sachs

Age Range: Birth to 3

Types of Children Served: Children with diagnosed handicapping conditions, developmental delays, "environmental risks"

Eligibility Requirements: None. Unless family needs can be met by less intensive community services.

Description of program: The WRP EIP program is both home and center based with each family receiving home based services. An IEP and treatment plan is written for each child. We currently provide 2 toddler groups, a mother baby group and 2 parent support groups. The diagnostic intake is 4 sessions long and include family and developmental intake, an area and an assessment meeting of the transdisciplinary team.

Staff Composition: O.T., part-time P.T., S.W. Psy. Nurse, Infant Toddler Specialists, Child Development Para Professional, Director. Consultants: Speech, Devel. Pediatrics, Child Psy., Expressive Therapy

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, ages 2-3.

Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Sliding Scale, Medicard, Blue Cross are accepted.

Transportation: to toddler groups is provided by DOE; to mother/baby group is provided by Dept. of Mental Health.

Duration of Program: Year round.

Referral Process: Call EI staff member at the program.

REGION V

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Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

CAPE COD CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INC.
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTATION PROGRAM

83 Pearl Street
Hyannis, MA 02601
(617) 771-4090 or 775-6240 (message)
Serves Cape Cod, Wareham, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket
Contact: Barbara Prindle-Eaton

Age Range: Birth to three

Types of Children Served: Developmentally disabled, delayed and at risk children and their families.

Eligibility Requirements: Eligibility is determined on an individual basis.

Description of program: Home and Centerbase services. Parent support and education. Toy and Resource lending library. Transition and advocacy support. Services to parents include weekly home visits, weekly parent support group and monthly evening workshops.

Staff Composition: Program Director, Coordinator, 2½ Developmentalists, full-time P.T. and O.T., ½ Time Speech/Language Therapist, Part-time Teacher Assistant, Part-time Social Service/Intake Assistant.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, Birth to three

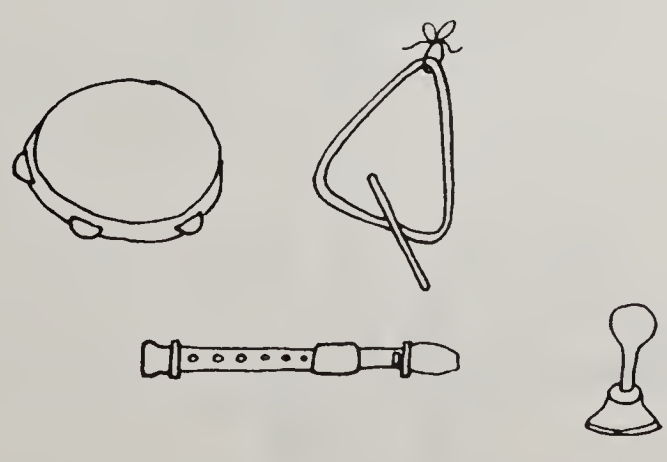
Vision Specialist: Yes, Consultant

Cost: None

Transportation: None

Duration of Program: Centerbase 1x/week for 2 hours, home visits weekly

Referral Process: Referrals may be made by parents or professionals.



HANDI-KIDS - THERAPEUTIC RECREATION COMPLEX

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

470 Pine Street
Bridgewater, MA
(617) 697-7557
Serves all towns in the southeast region of MA
Contact: Patti Phillips, R.T.

Age Range: 2-elderly.

Types of Children Served: Mentally, Physically and/or Emotionally Impaired.

Eligibility Requirements: No necessary requirements.

Description of program: We offer a variety of recreational activities to meet the needs of the participants, dependent on their age and disability.

Staff Composition: Program Director, Ass. Program Director, and Volunteers and Interns.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, all ages

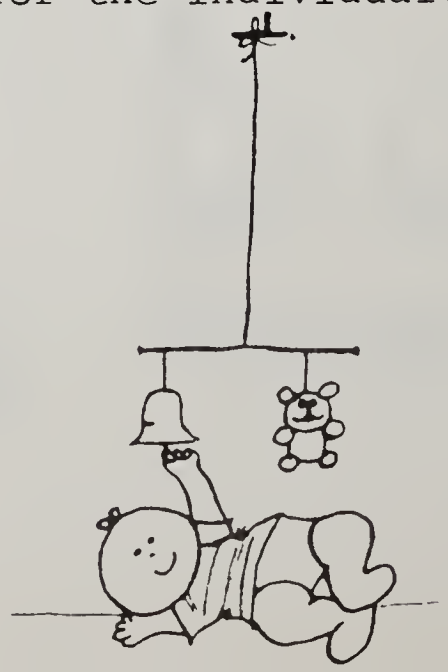
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: No fee.

Transportation: Provided by participant.

Duration of Program: Seasonal programs last 10 weeks-(fall, winter, spring) - Summer is four two week camp sessions.

Referral Process: Each participant is met first by the Program Director to determine if the program desired is appropriate for the individual.



KENNEDY DONOVAN CENTER

80 Rivet Street
New Bedford, MA
(617) 992-4756
Serves Greater New Bedford and Fall River.
Contact: David C. Erickson

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

Age Range: 0 - 22

Types of Children Served: Multi-handicapped.

Eligibility Requirements: Multi-handicapped (mental retardation/ physical disability).

Description of Program: 1. Early Intervention - Birth to 3 years.
2. Developmental Day Program - 3-22 years.

Staff Composition: Special education, nursing, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, psychological/social service counselor.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 0-20.

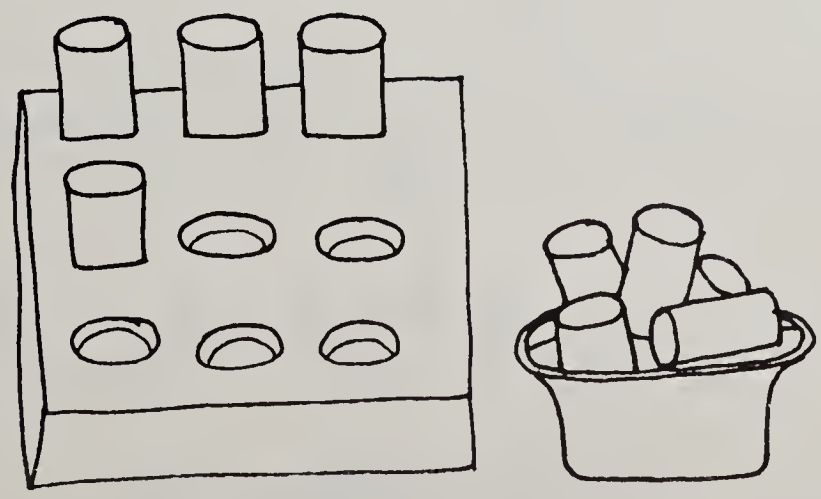
Vision Specialist: From local school departments.

Cost: No charge to families.

Transportation: Provided by local school departments.

Duration of Program: Open year round.

Referral Process: Call contact person.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

PILGRIM AREA COLLABORATIVE

1456 Ocean Street
Marshfield, MA 02050
(617) 837-1311
Serves Duxbury, Plymouth, Marshfield, Pembroke, Halifax, Kingston
Contact: Shiela Beauluie

Age Range: 3-8

Types of Children Served: Multihandicapped Deaf/Blind, Developmentally Delayed, Learning Disabled.

Eligibility Requirements: At least 1 year delay in developmental skill areas such as gross motor, fine motor, language, cognitive, social emotional.

Description of program: Self contained pre-school classrooms servicing children with a variety of handicapping conditions that include neurologicaly impaired, low functional vision, hearing loss, C.P.

Staff Composition: Early Childhood Special Education Teachers, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Psychologist, Registered Nurse.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, age range from 4-8 years.

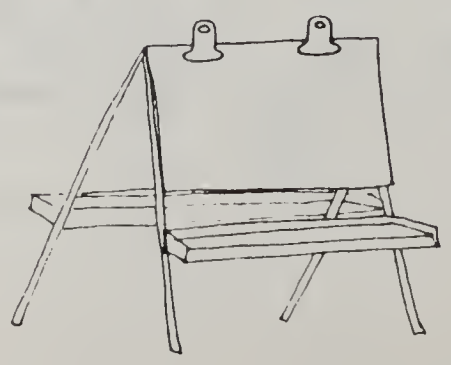
Vision Specialist: Yes

Cost: $3,400 per year. (does not include summer program)

Transportation: Special Education Cabs

Duration of Program: 180 days

Referral Process: Referred from outside agencies to local speech director. Two day team evaluation programs, team meeting entrance into programs.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

PROJECT EARLY

315 West Main Street
Norton, MA 02766
(617) 226-0527
Serves Norton, Easton, Mansfield, Foxboro.
Contact: Margaret M. Werner

Age Range: 3-6

Types of Children Served: Moderate to Severe.

Eligibility Requirements: Mobility.

Description of Program: Project Early serves two levels of children - moderate (children with speech, language, behavior or orthopedic needs who will eventually enter public schools with limited special needs). Severe (children with developmental delays that may result in placement in 502.4 placements when they enter regular programming.

Staff Composition: Early Childhood Teachers (3), Speech/Language Therapists (2), Early Childhood Psyschologist (1).

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, Cortically Blind Child is presently in program, age 4.

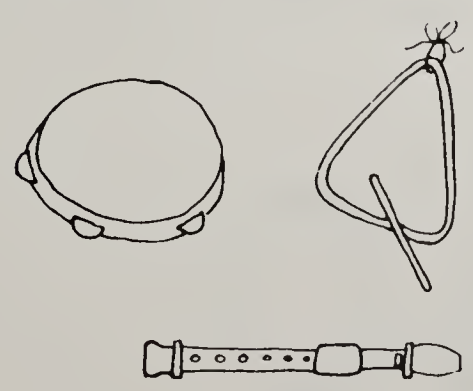
Vision Specialist: Have utilized Boston Center for the Blind.

Cost: 5,000 per half day, 5 days per week.

Transportation: Provided by Local Districts.

Duration of Program: 180 days, 2½ hrs. per day 5 days per week.

Referral Process: Referral through Project Early Office
315 West Main Street
Norton, MA 02766



Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational □

I.H. SCHWARTZ CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTER

374 Rockdale Avenue
New Bedford, MA
(617) 996-3391
Serves Greater New Bedford
Contact: Mrs. Louise Cohen, Education Coordinator

Age Range: 0-17 years old.

Types of Children Served: Children in need of speech, occupational therapy, or physical therapy.

Eligibility Requirements: None.

Description of Program: A comprehensive medical rehabilitation center designed to provide physical restoration, speech, occupational and audiology programs for children physically or developmentally disabled in order to maximize mobility, self care, communication and developmental skills.

Staff Composition: Therapists trained in above fields, nurses, consulting doctors.

Previous service to visually impaired children: Yes, ages 0-17 years.

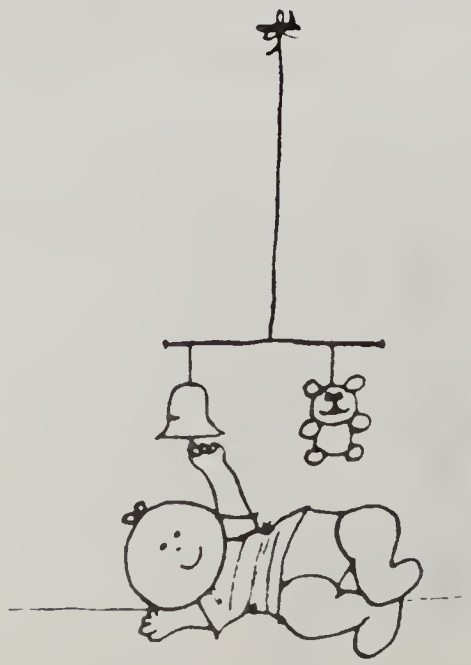
Vision Specialist: Some children have consultants from local school departments.

Cost: Sliding scale fees.

Transportation: Have own buses.

Duration of Program: 8:00 - 3:330 five days a week.

Referral Process: Referrals from pediatricians, school departments, social workers.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

SELF HELP INC. HEAD START

20 Union Street
Brocton, MA 02401
(617) 587-1716
Serves Greater Brockton Area
Contact: Special Needs Cordinator

Age Range: Three to five years

Types of Children Served: Any child whose family meets eligiblity requirements unless it's determined H.S. not the best placement to meet child's needs.

Eligilibity Requirements: None

Description of program: Self-Help, Inc. believes that parents are the best teachers of their child. They offer a home-based and center-based program to help parents learn to teach their children well. In weekly home visits parents and teacher plan weekly lessons. One morning a week the child participates in a classroom experience Monthly parent meeting are also planned.

Staff Composition: Center Staff: Head teacher, Teacher, Nurse Family Worker, Other: Education Specialist, Health Coordinator (R.N.), Special Service Coord., Parent Involvement Coord.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, three and four.

Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Free if client meets Federal income guidelines or program guidelines for a limited number of overincome families.

Transportation: provided.

Duration of Program: October to June.

Referral Process: The referring party may be the child's parent(s) or an agency. If the referring party is an agency, the parents(s) must be aware the referral is being made. A telephone call is all that's necessary.

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

TAUNTON AREA EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

1 Hill Street
Taunton, MA 02780
(617) 823-5327
Serves Taunton, Raynham, Lakeville
Contact: Catherine Finn

Age Range: 0-3 years

Types of Children Served: Any child who is presently, or is 'at risk for' delays in one or more areas of development.

Eligibility Requirements: (same as above)

Description of program: Developmental Screening and Assessments, Individualized and Group Programming through weekly Nursery Classes, Parent Groups, Home Visiting, Sibling Group and Lending Library.

Staff Composition: 2 Early Childhood Special Educators, 2 Speech/Lang Pathologists, 2 Occupational Therapists, 1 M/S.W., 1 Physical Therapist, 1 R.N.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 0-3 years.

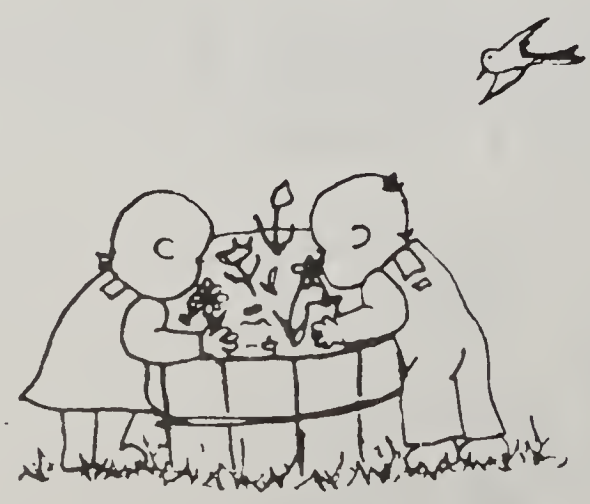
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Not Applicable

Transportation: Yes

Duration of Program: year round

Referral Process: Contact to program can be made by parent or professional.



REGION VI

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Services
Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL
VISION RESOURCES SERVICES

515 Hyde Park Avenue
Roslindale, MA 02131
(617) 327-4129
Serves Boston.
Contact: Mary Jane Drinkwater

Age Range: 3-22

Types of Children Served: Visually Impaired, Visually Impaired Multi-Handicapped.

Eligibility Requirements: Age 3-22, vision impairment, residence in Boston.

Description of program: The goal of the program is to provide to students whose vision is interfering with learning, the support and services they need. All services provided are designed to help the child move to a less restrictive education environment. Services are provided by an itinerant vision teacher or in a separate vision class. An orientation and mobility program is also offered.

Staff Composition: All staff are certified by the State Department of Education in Vision and/or Orientation and Mobility.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes

Vision Specialist: On Site.

Cost: Free to Boston Residents.

Transporation: Provided.

Duration of Program: Dependent on I.E.P.

Referral Process: Children are referred by the Mass Commission for the Blind, hospitals, parents, Educational Team Leaders

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

CAMP JOY - BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION

Boston City Hall
Room 816
Boston, MA 02201
(617) 725-3469
Serves City of Boston
Contact: Josephine Ruggeri

Age Range: 3 - adult.

Types of Children Served: All Disabilities.

Eligibility Requirements: None.

Description of Program: Emphasis is on recreation. Play with a purpose.

Staff Composition: Each program is supervised by a certified special needs teacher with an assistant. Most staff are students in a degree training program or have secured a position in a special needs program.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, but very few.

Vision Specialist: No.

Cost: $25.00 Registration fee.

Transportation: Door to door.

Duration of Program: Six weeks summer program (Days only).

Referral Process: Request an application from Parks and Recreations.

CHILDCARE RESOURCE CENTER

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

24 Thorndike Street
Cambridge, MA
547-1057 or 547-9861
Serves greater Boston area Cambridge, Somerville.
Contact: Nancy Mullin

Age Range: Birth to 6 years (after school program 6-12 years)

Types of Children Served: All types of childcare services re: mainstream as well as handicap services for children.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: We help parents and providers find immediate solutions to child care problems, by providing referrals and assistance to put individuals, programs and organizations in touch with each other.

Staff Composition: Child Care workers, Parents, Volunteers; experienced in many areas of child care, parenting and advocacy.

Previous Service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes

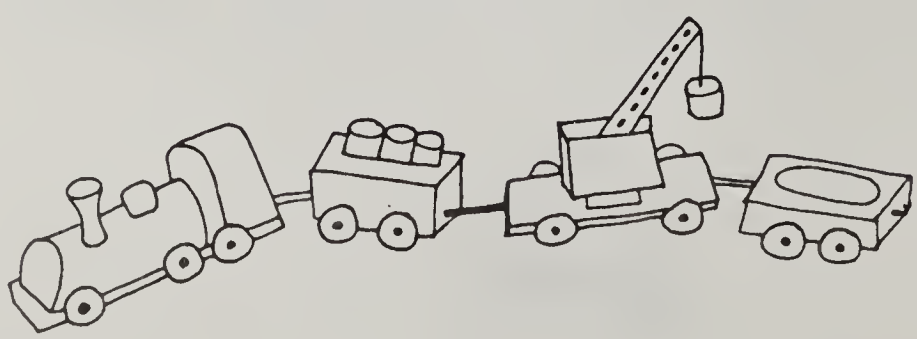
Vision Specialist: There are persons on staff with special needs experience.

Cost: nominal fee for workshops; free to parents.

Transporation: No

Duration of Program: No

Referral Process: Call Center for further information.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER OF BOSTON

48 Warren Avenue, Boston, MA
(617) 482-7494
Serves Greater Boston Area
Contact: Katherine Bigger
Director, Music Therapist

Age Range: Early Childhood to Seniors.

Types of Children Served: Multi-handicapped. Those with Emotional Behavioral problems, Developmental Delays or Retardation, Learning Disabilities, or Physical Handicaps, as well as those in need of preventatives and Early Interventation Services.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: The Program Description Center offers a Music Therapy Program provides educational, recreational and therapeutic music services to those in the Greater Boston Area. Music Therapy, General Music Classes and children's classes are offered. Music activities are geared to help the student overcome Psychological, Physical and/or Developmental difficulties. Music Therapy places great emphasis upon enabling the student with special needs to function effectively in the home, the school and the community.

Staff Composition: Director of Music Therapy, 4 Part-time Regular Music Therapists.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, ages 3-7 years.

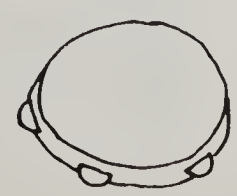
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: to be arranged.

Transportation: Not available to transport to the Center. Outreach sessions are available.

Duration of Program: To be arranged.

Referral Process: Assessment session and evaluation.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

EARLY LEARNING: A CHILD-CARE & DEVELOPMENT CENTER

19 So. Street
Brighton, MA 02135
(617) 783-1318
Serves Greater Boston & Suburbs.
Contact: Joan Kibrick or Richard Carson

Age Range: Birth - School Age.

Types of Children Served: Young children-no other restrictions.

Eligibility Requirements: Ability to adapt to child-care setting.

Description of Program: A center for infants and young children, where play, exploration, friendships and independence are encouraged. Daily activities include: Music-times, story-telling, exploring materials, mealtimes together, going outdoors, and opportunities for play and exploration in a playroom that is adapted to present challenges and space for movement for the young child.

Staff Composition: 2:6 ratio. Daily staff includes an early childhood special educator and a music specialist.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, a 2 yr. old.

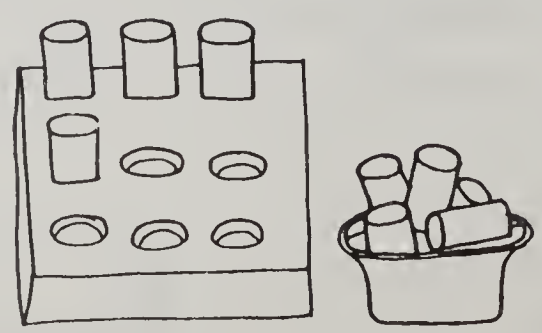
Vision Specialist: Yes, through the Boston Center for Blind Children.

Cost: P.T. $65.00, 3/4 T. $95.00, F.T. $115.00.

Transportation: Provided by parents.

Duration of Program: Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am-5:30 pm. Weekend child-care available (overnight).

Referral Process: Call the Center at 783-1318.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

GREATER BOSTON LEGAL SERVICES

85 Devonshire Street
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 367-2880
Serves Greater Boston Area
Contact: Individual Rights Unit
(Education Law)

Age Range: 3-21

Types of Children Served: Special Needs Children Eligible for special education under Ch 766 * PL 94-142 S504 (Rehab Act).

Eligibility Requirements: income requirements: must meet poverty guidelines (e.q.: family of 3 no more than $9,700 yearly gross income)

Description of program: legal representation of minors in Mass 766 matters (IEP meetings, Mediation, BSEA Hearings & Court.)

Staff Composition: 3 attorneys, 2 paralegals

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Unsure, but would serve them.

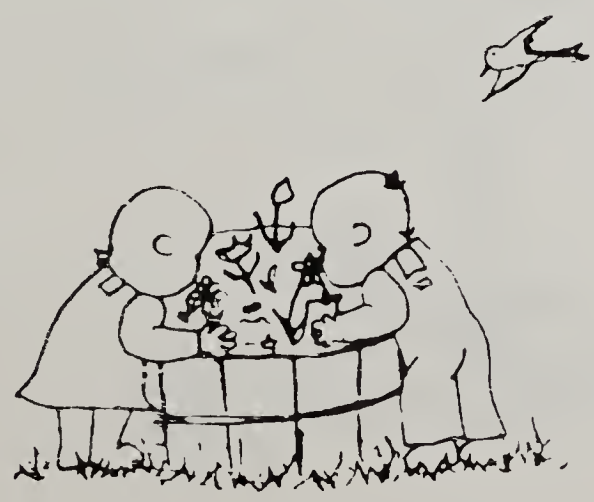
Vision Specialist: Not applicable

Cost: None specified

Transportation: Not applicable

Duration of Program: Not applicable

Referral Process: May call for information



JUDGE BAKER GUIDANCE CENTER

295 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 232-8390
Serves Metropolitan Boston
Contact: Mary Phinney, Intake
Admission to Div 72 & 73 is through
Children's Hospital

Services
Provided:

Medical ■
Social ■
Educational □
Recreational □

Age Range: Early Childhood through High School age.

Types of Children Served: Children with emotional, behavioral, and learning problems.

Eligibility Requirements: Not applicable

Description of program: Direct service to children and families. Outpatient clinic (diagnosis and treatment) Parent Place (an intervention program that teaches parents skills necessary for helping themselves and with behavioral, developmental and emotional issues). Family Support Center (an early intervention program designed to prevent later problems by helping families cope with loss.) In-patient unit where complex physical and emotional problems are treated.

Staff Composition: Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Work.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes

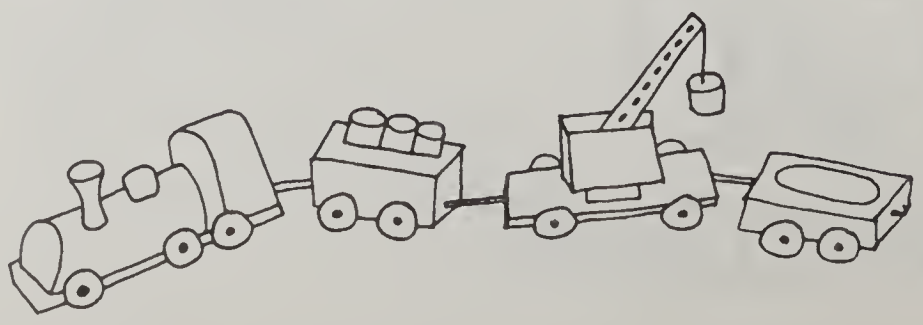
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: No response.

Transportation: Not applicable

Duration of Program: year round.

Referral Process: Parents may call clinic directly.



PARENT-SITTER CONNECTION

Services Provided:

- Medical ☐
- Social ■
- Educational ☐
- Recreational ☐

19 South Street
Brighton, MA 02135
(617) 783-1318
Serves Greater Boston and surrounding suburbs
Contact: Joan Kibrick

Age Range: All ages

Types of Children Served: All types - no restrictions

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: We are a referral service for sitters who want to do child-care in the child's home and for parents who need child-care services. Occasional, part-time and full-time.

Staff Composition: Not applicable

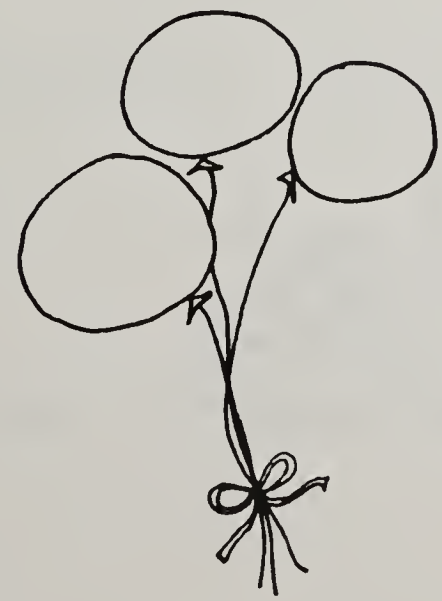
Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes

Vision Specialist: N/A

Cost: Sitters set their own rate. There is a $25. fee to the families when a sitter is found and a $12. fee paid by the sitter for the connection. Call 783-1318.

Duration of Program: Not applicable

Referral Process: Parents may call office directly.



THOM MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

315 Dartmouth Street
Boston, MA
(617) 266-1222 X29
Serves Greater Boston Area
Contact: Tom Gifford

Age Range: 2-6

Types of Children Served: Normal, with limited mainstreaming.

Eligibility Requirements: Flexible.

Description of program: The Thom Montessori School hopes to develop a child's self-esteem and awareness. Special needs children are mainstreamed into a morning group of 2-6 year olds. The teacher prepares a structured environment with a wide variety of educational materials and activities. Each child moves at his own pace.

Staff Composition: Director, 2 Full-time Teachers, 2 Part-time Teachers, Montessori Intern.

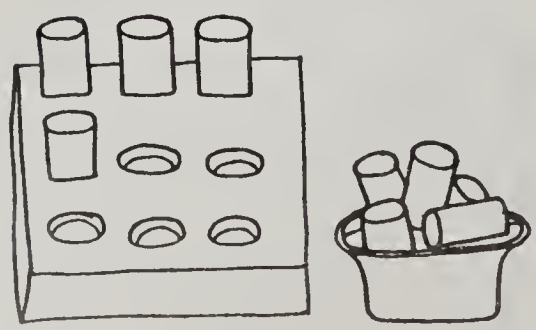
Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 3

Vision Specialist: No-General Special Needs Consultant

Cost: Full day $3,680 - Half day $2,052

Duration of Program: Full time 8:15-5:30, Half day A.M., 8:15-12(or 1) P.M. 1-5:30.

Referral Process: Call and set up visit.



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BOSTON CENTER FOR BLIND CHILDREN

Services Provided:

Medical ◪
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ◪

147 South Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02130
(617) 232-1710
Serves Massachusetts
Contact:
Children 0-3: Jennie Todd
Children 3-22: Jean Tates

Age Range: 0-22.

Types of Children Served: Visually impaired, multiple sensory impairments, mentally retarded, and behavioral disturbances, in combination.

Eligibility Requirements: Minimal ambulatory ability.

Description of Program: Day time education classes for ages 3-22. Residence for ages 6-22; a twenty four hour per day education and treatment center with formal school hours 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Education and child care services conducted on a 1:1 and small group basis. Social service; child advocacy; family and community liaison work; health care.

Staff Composition: Interdisciplinary with special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, music therapist, family nurse practitioner, child care specialists, psychologists, physical therapists.

Previous service to visually impaired and blind children: All children are visually impaired or blind.

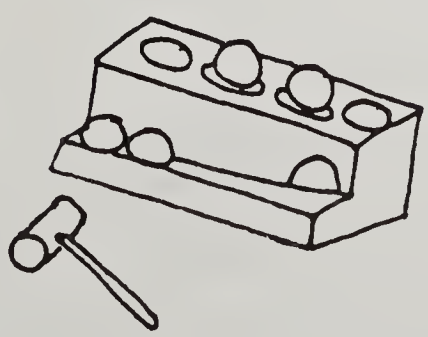
Vision Specialists: Yes.

Cost: For child in residence personal and health care expenses.

Duration of Program: 12 months.

Transportation: Provided by town.

Referral Process: Anyone may call to make an appointment to visit the program.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

CAMP WAPANACKI (OF THE N.Y. INSTITUTE F/T BLIND)

Hardwick, Vermont 05843
(802) 472-6612
Weekdays 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Serves primarily Northeastern U.S.A.
Contact: Joe Ingram-Camp Director

Age Range: 6 -21

Types of Children Served: Primarily legally blind and visually handicapped.

Eligibility Requirements: Attached data sheet.

Description of Program: We offer visually-impaired young people a program fostering the development of recreational interests and skills. Campers participate in swimming, boating, athletics, arts & crafts, woodshop, music, nature study, or gardening. We are in the planning stages for a winter program which may contain a component for families having a visually handicapped member to participate as a family in winter recreational activiites, i.e. skiing, sledding, skating, etc... Interested persons should write for more information.

Staff Composition: Summer staff are primarily high school and college students working under the supervision of a core of professional staff. On staff for every 3 campers in the cabin living unit.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Camp has operated program for blind since 1938.

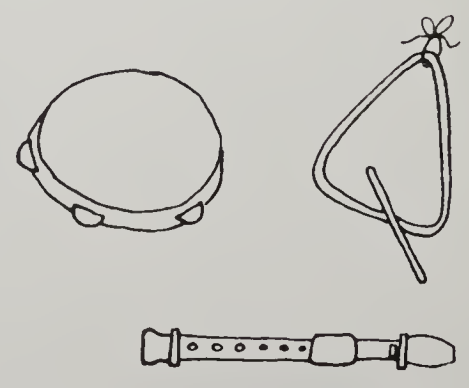
Vision Specialist: Yes, on site.

Cost: Summer camp costs:

Bus transportation round trip from Northampton, MA	$60.00
Laundry fee	20.00
Personal spending	10.00
1983 season fees	$90.00

Duration of Program: 3 weeks/session

Referral Process: Write for application form.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

THE CARROLL CENTER FOR THE BLIND

770 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02118
(617) 969-6200
Contact: Rachel Ethier Rosenbaum, Executive Director
Serves all of Massachusetts

Age Range: All ages.

Types of Children Served: All blind or visually impaired children.

Eligibility Requirements: Legally Blind.

Description of Program: Mobility services, family and individual counseling, professional publication, volunteer service, and aids and appliances store.

Staff Composition: Orientation and Mobility specialists, counselors, recreation staff.

Previous experience with visually impaired or blind children: All ages.

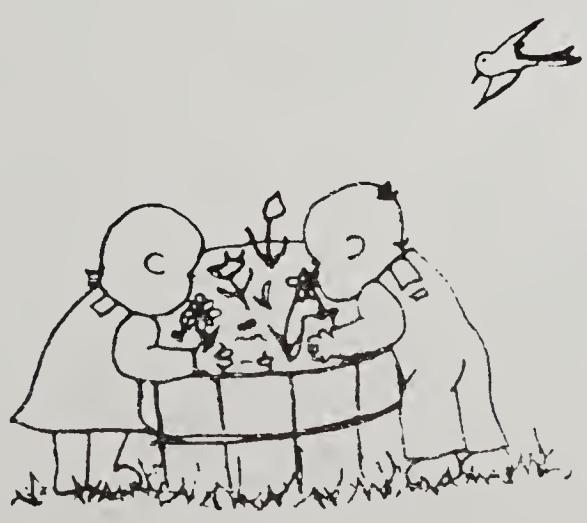
Vision Consultant: We have certified teachers of the visually impaired primarily for mobility and counseling for children. Although we have wider expertise, this has been used mainly by adults.

Cost: Usually contracted by local school departments, occasionally Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (summer); counseling has been paid by cities and towns, except in one situation (paid by family)

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: Year round.

Referral process: Call agency for more information.



CARAVAN SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN, INC.

P.O. Box 357
Athol, MA 01331
(617) 249-4845
Serves any towns and cities in Massachusetts
Contact: Jane M. Laughton, Executive Director

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

Age Range: 5-21 years.

Types of Children Served: A wide variety of special needs including diagnosed disabling conditions, chronic medical conditions, envirmontal risk or developmental delay.

Eligibility Requirements: Child must be ambulatory, toilet trained and capable of self-care skills.

Description of program: We operate Camp Caravan in South Royalston, MA. It is a residential camping facility for special needs children which was founded in 1944 as a private, non-profit charitable organization. We run an 8 week session and 2 four week sessions with an 80 camper capacity for each session. Our program is recreational consisting of Arts and Crafts, Nature Study. We are accredited by the American Camping Association and an affiliate of the United Way of Mass Bay.

Staff Composition: We employ a staff of 53. Our counselor-camper ratio is 2:10 or 1:5. We have an R.N. on duty 24 hours per day and an M/D. on call. We are affiliated with Athol Memoral Hospital.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, ages 5 through 21.

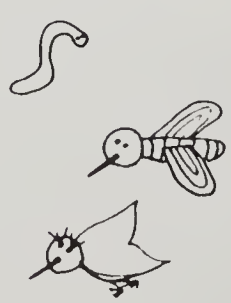
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: $125.00 per week

Transportation: Chartered bus service provided from Somerville YMCA to Camp Caravan at $20.00 round trip.

Duration of Program: 8 weeks or one of 2 four week sessions.

Referral Process: After January 1, 1984 write to: Camp Caravan, P.O. Box 357, Athol, MA 01331



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

Museum Wharf
300 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210
(617) 426-6500 (office)
(617) 426-8855 (recorded happenings)
Serves Statewide
Contact Person: Paul Bert

Age Range: All ages.

Types of Children Served: All types.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of Program: Various touch exhibits, play space with activities for children under 5. "What If You Couldn't" exhibit on disabilities including vision. Resource library for parents. Books for teaching visually impaired children about science, etc. included. Braille and large print guides to Museum are available.

Staff Composition: Special needs person; museum guides.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, all ages.

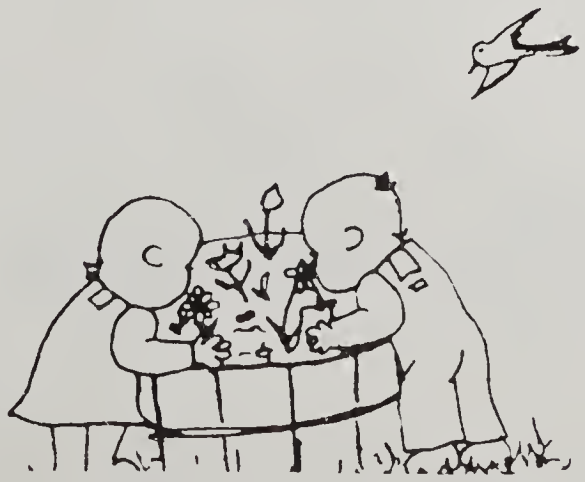
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: $4.00 Adult; $3.00 Children 5 yrs. and up; free to Children under 5; and free admission to all on Friday nights between 6 and 9 p.m.

Transportation: None

Duration of Program: Year Round - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Closed Mondays, except on Boston Public School holidays and in the summer.

Referral Process: Call the Museum if you have any questions.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☑
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

DELTA PROJECTS, INC.

21 Walden Square Road
Cambridge, MA 02130
(617) 492-8048
Serves Statewide-priority given to DMH Region IV-A
Contact: Diane Lagulli

Age Range: 3-13

Types of Children Served: mentally retarded, multi-handicapped.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Delta House serves children who are mentally retarded, developmentally delayed and multi-handicapped. The staff offers a 30 day parent training program, respite and outreach services. During the 30 day program children remain in residence for intensive training while parents receive a series of training sessions. Respite is provided from periods of 1 day to 2 weeks. The outreach program provides home-based training and consultation to families.

Staff Composition: Generally 1 direct care staff to 3 children. Program also has an R.N., a parent trainer, and a program director.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes.

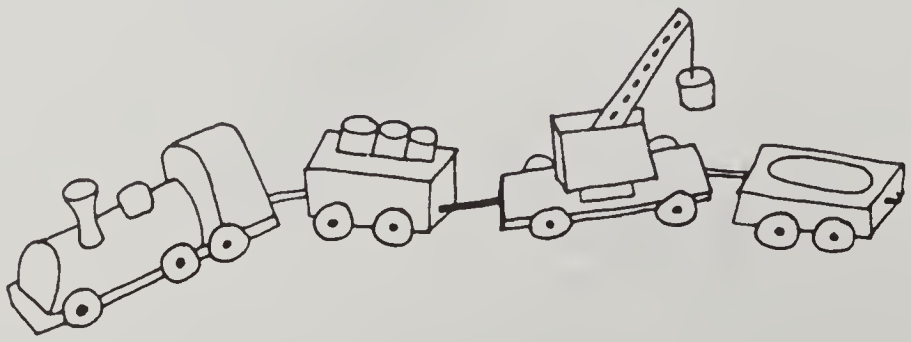
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: $69.22/day

Transportation: not provided.

Duration of Program: respite up to 2 weeks, parent training 30 days.

Referral Process: Parents/ guardians/caseworker call agency.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LAW CENTER

294 Washington Street, Suite 840
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 426-7020
Serves Massachusetts
Contact: Intake Worker

Age Range: Developmentally disabled - all ages.

Types of Children Served: Developmentally disabled.

Eligibility Requirements: Income Eligiblity.

Description of Program: Legal representation and technical assistance with legal problems related to a developmental disability.

Staff Composition: 2 lawyers, 2 law students and a paralegal.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes.

Vision Specialist: No response.

Cost: No charge to families.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: No response.

Referral Process: No Response.

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

DISCOVERY ROOM, MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Science Park
Boston, MA
(617) 723-2500 X344
Serves Massachusetts school groups free/open to public
Contact: Rhonda Sasso

Age Range: 4-9

Types of Children Served: "hands-on" program - ideal for tactile exploration for all children.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: A "hands-on" science exploration area. Science objects including rocks, minerals, shells, bones, animal mounts, etc. are displayed for investigation by youngsters. Adult volunteers introduce the program and assist adults and children with activities.

Staff Composition: 1 full-time staff supervisor, 4 volunteers per day.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, individual children with parents/groups of school age children.

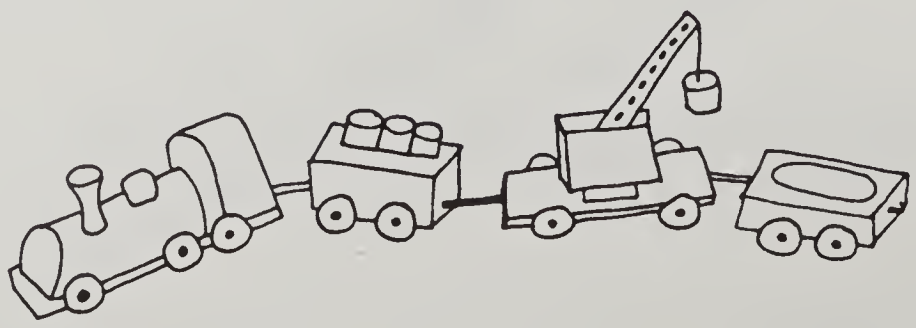
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: Free to children under 5, $3.00 to age 16 & 65 or over, $4.00 over 16, $5.00 adult, half price admission for all Friday nights after 5 p.m. Planetarium 50¢ extra. Children under 5 not normally admitted.

Transportation: Up to group

Duration of Program: Open 9-4 Tuesday through Thursday, Friday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Saturday, Sunday, Holidays and July - August 9-5.

Referral Process: Not applicable



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

312 Stuart Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 482-2915
Serves State of Massachusetts
Contact: Betsy Anderson

Age Range: All.

Types of Children: Special Needs.

Eligibility Requirements: None specified.

Description of Program: A center for parents and parent organizations to work together to serve children with special needs and their families. Parent training in special education laws. Collaboration between parents and health care professionals. Lay advocy training. Information and Referral.

Previous Service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes.

Vision Consultant: No response.

Cost: Varies with programs.

Tranportation: No response.

Duration of Program: Year round; some workshops are short term.

Referral Process: Call the Federation for an update on the services they currently offer. The New England Parents Association for Visually Handicapped Children and Adults is under this umbrella organization.

INFORMATION CENTER FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH
DISABILITIES, INC.

20 Park Plaza, Suite 330
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 727-5540
Toll free in MA: (800) 462-5015
Serves: No restriction.
Contact: Ms. Susan Pirko

Services Provided:

- Medical ☐
- Social ■
- Educational ☐
- Recreational ☐

Age Range: No restriction.

Types of Children Served: All disabilities.

Eligibility Requirements: None.

Description of Program: We provide information on a wide variety of subjects of interest to disabled person, e.g., transportation, housing, recreation, employment, etc. Parents may find us very helpful.

Staff Composition: Information Specialists, Resource Developers.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Parents of these children.

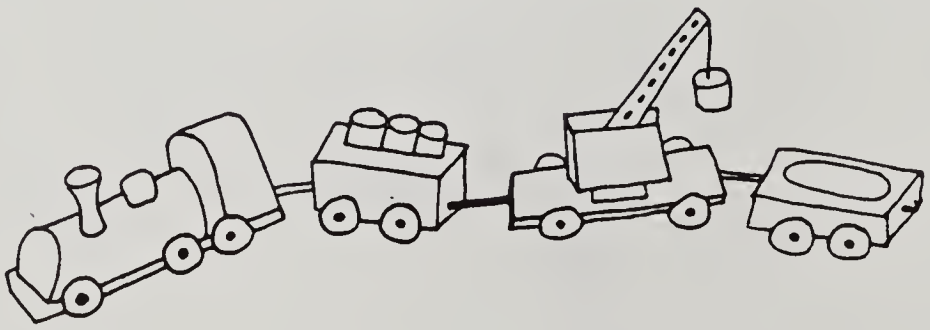
Vision Specialist: No response.

Cost: No response.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: No response.

Referral Process: No response.



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED, 0-7, INC.

EARLY YEARS EDUCATION AND SUPPORT GROUP (EYES).

PROJECT OUTREACH USA

14 Gay Street
Newtonville, MA 02160
(617) 426-5567
Serves Nation, World-wide.
Contact: Sherry Raynor

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

Age Range: Birth to Seven.

Types of Children: All blind or visually impaired preschoolers.

Eligibility: As above.

Description of Program: IIVI is the only organization in the world devoted solely to the collection, development, and dissemination of information, materials, and services for infant and young blind or visually impaired children. EYES - parent information center, parent support groups. Federally funded, Project Outreach USA is assisting others in establishing services or improving services for preschool blind and visually impaired.

Staff Composition: Volunteers. Project Outreach USA - Director, Education Coordinator, Parent Coordinator, several specialists in support services.

Previous service to visually impaired children: Yes.

Vision Specialist: Project Outreach USA staff.

Cost: Federal government covers some programs. Fees, contracts arranged.

Transportation: Not applicable.

Duration of Program: On-going.

Referral Process: Call the Institute for more information.

I.I.V.I.

LIONS GALLERY OF THE SENSES

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

Wadsworth Atheneum
Hartford, CT 06103
(203) 278-2670
Serves Connecticut and Massachusetts
Contact: Sally Williams

Age Range: All ages welcome

Type of Children Served: All types

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: The Lions Gallery is a gallery within Hartford's art museum. the Wadsworth Atheneum, which presents art exhibitions, that are accessable to persons with all types of handicaps. The exhibitions vary in content, but always can be enjoyed by the use of more than simple looking. Often they explore sound, sometimes smell and touch, and even taste. Gallery guides are always available to welcome visitors and help in any way necessary. Visits to the gallery are free.

Staff Composition: Not described.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Many - of all ages

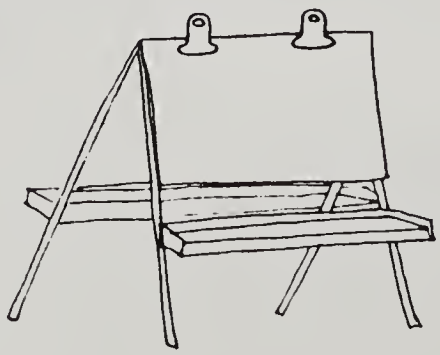
Vision Specialist: as consultants as we plan our exhibitions.

Cost: None

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: five exhibitions a year.

Referral Process: Call for further information.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

789 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036
(617) 259-9500
Serves Massachusetts
Contact: Tiffany Fliss

Age Range: All ages

Types of Children Served: All.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Laughing Brook is an Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary owned and operated by the Mass. Audubon Society. There are 259 acres of fields and woodlands and over four miles of trails. There is a Touch and See Trail for the blind and visually handicapped. Birthday parties with Mother Westwind. Natural history and environmental education programs for children, families and school groups.

Staff Composition: No response.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes

Vision Specialist: No

Cost: $2.00 Adults, $1.00 Senior Citizens, $1.00 Children under 16, Free to MAS members.

Transportation: No

Duration of Program: Open all year. Tues-Sun 10-5.

Referral Process: Call for further information.

MASSACHUSETTS
COMMISSION F/T BLIND

110 Tremont Street
Boston, MA
(617) 727-5550
Serves State-wide
Contact: Regional Childrens' Social Workers

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

Age Range: Birth-Death; childrens' services 0-14

Type of Children Served: Any legally blind child in Massachusetts.

Eligibility Requirements: Legal blindness and residence in Massachusetts.

Description of program: MCB offers a wide array of services to legally blind children and their families including counseling, advocacy, infant stimulation, activities of daily living and case management. Financial Assistance is available to those meeting the eligibility requirements.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Serves all visually impaired children.

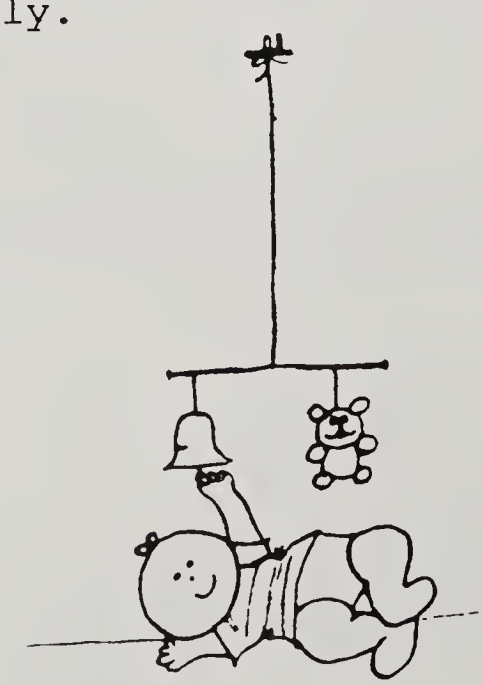
Vision Specialist: Not applicable

Cost: None

Transportation: Not applicable

Duration of Program: year round

Referral Process: Parents may call Mass. Commission for the Blind directly.



Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ■
Educational □
Recreational ◪

MASS EASTER SEAL SOCIETY

37 Howard Street
Worcester, MA 01609
(617) 757-2756
Serves all of state
Contact: Natalie Zaremba

Age Range: All ages

Types of Children Served: Physically and multiply disabled.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: On site physical, occupational and speech therapy; social services; swim programs; camping. Parent support groups (in development), equipment loan; home health nursing.

Staff Composition: P.T., O.T., Speech Pathologists, Registered Nurses, M.S.W.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, all ages, have also had physical or speech disabilities.

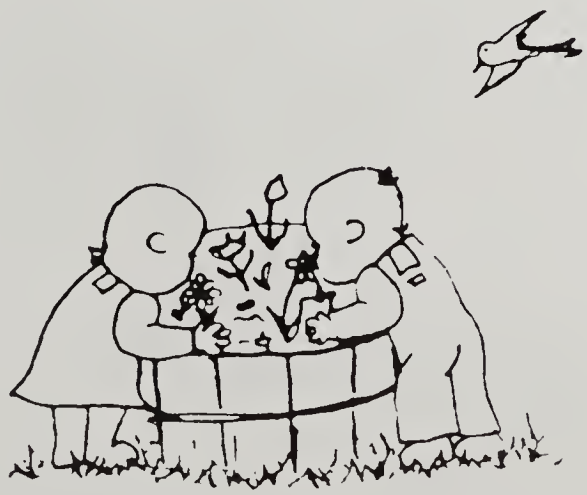
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: None to parents.

Transportation: Not provided.

Duration of Program: Varies with Program.

Referral Process: Parents may call directly.



Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ■
Educational □
Recreational □

MASSACHUSETTS EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY

243 Charles Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 523-7900
Serves all New England
Contact: Eye Clinic for Medical care; Madeline Shipsey for Social Services.

Age Range: No limit.

Types of Children: Children who need eye, ear, nose throat care.

Eligibility Requirements: Need eye, earn nose, or throat care.

Description of Program: Eye specialists in every aspect of eye care. Casework service to parents regarding emotional or social problems associated with medical care, disability.

Staff Composition: Physicians, nursing staff, in-patient and out-patient clinics; caseworkers with master's degrees in Social Work, and two with B.A. degrees.

Previous Service to Visually Impaired or Blind Children: Yes, all ages.

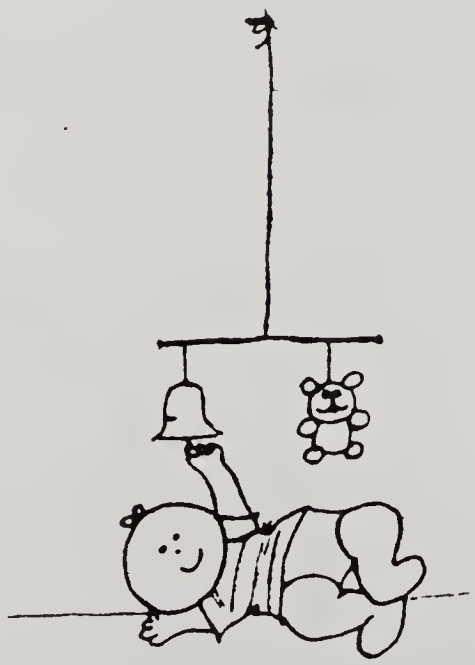
Vision Consultant: Not applicable.

Cost: No response for medical care; No fee for casework services.

Transportation: Patient is responsible.

Duration of Program: As needed.

Referral Process: Telephone call.



MASS REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Services Provided:

- Medical ☐
- Social ☐
- Educational ■
- Recreational ■

Perkins School for the Blind
175 N. Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02172
(617) 924-3434 x240 and/or
(800) 852-3133
Serves Statewide
Contact: Library Staff

Age Range: All ages.

Types of Children Served: Visually impaired, physically handicapped, learning disabled.

Eligibility Requirements: Must be unable to hold a book, turn pages or see to read normally printed book materials.

Description of Program: Free, mail-order public library services to eligible Mass residents; books in braille and recorded formats; equipment required to "read" the books is provided on free loan. The collection features picture books, beginning readers, elementary and secondary pleasure reading (as well as adult titles) but does not include textbook materials or musical recordings.

Staff Composition: Clerical staff fills book orders; shipping staff prepares books for shipment. This is a direct service office rather than a consulting agency.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, most successfully from age 3½ and up.

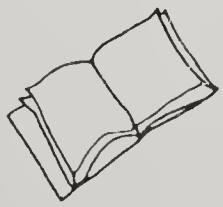
Vision Specialist: No response.

Cost: Free (tax supported) service.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: Services provided throughout individual's lifetime if desired.

Referral Process: Client must complete and submit an application for service obtainable from our offices or from the Mass Commission for the Blind.



Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

305 East 24 Street
New York, NY 10010
(212) 889-3141
Serves Nation Wide
Contact: Lorraine H. Marchi
Executive Director

Age Range: All ages.

Types of Children Served: Partially seeing (not totally blind).

Eligibility Requirements: Partially seeing.

Description of Program: Large print textbooks, pleasure reading, news letter, informational literature for lay person and professionals working with partially seeing. Information and referral service. Clearinghouse of information about services for the partially seeing from public and private sources.

Staff Composition: Executive Director, Assistant, Secretary in New York, Regional Coordinator and Assistant in San Francisco (serving 11 Western states).

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, 0-21.

Vision Specialist: As consultants.

Cost: Free - contributions are welcome.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: No response.

Referral Process: To low vision centers, low vision specialists, Special Education services in local areas. Referrals are made by phone, letter or in personal visits.

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ■

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 742-8830
Serves all New England
Contact: Cindy Richardson, Education Department

Age Range: All ages.

Types of Children Served: All.

Eligibility Requirements: None.

Description of your Program: Easy access with ramps throughout the building. Is filled with exciting exhibits for all visitors. A "hands-on" exhibit, the "Edge of the Sea", recreates a tidepool where visitors can dip their hands into cold salt water and pick up live sea stars, sea urchins, and crabs. Through May 1984 a special exhibition, "Whales - New England's Wandering Giants", will be on display. (Features a life-size 47 foot sculpture of a humpback whale.) Visitors are encouraged to touch the whale or even sit on its flipper. This exhibit may give visually impaired visitors their best opportunity to examine a whale up close.

Staff Composition: No response.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Visiting groups sometimes include school from for the blind. Visually impaired adults and children often visit as individuals.

Vision Specialist: No, but volunteers are available throughout the galleries to assist all visitors.

Cost: $5.00 for adults, $3.00 for children, $2.50 group rates.

Transportation: Must be provided by individual or group.

Duration of Program: Most groups allow 1-2 hours or more to explore the Aquarium.

Referral Process: No response.

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
SPECIALTY CLINIC

422 Beacon Street
Boston, MA
(617) 266-8890
Serves all New England
Contact: Dianne Skvarcius,
Administrative Assistant

Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ◪
Educational □
Recreational □

Age Range: All ages.

Types of Children Served: Children with some residual vision.

Eligibility Requirements: No wheelchair access, but willing to help patients in and out of Clinic.

Description of Program: Low Vision Clinic for children. The goal is to determine the infant or child's functioning level of vision and to identify educational techniques designed to stimulate visual development.

Staff Composition: Pediatric optometrists, educators, and psychological counselors.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: We have a population of visually impaired patients.

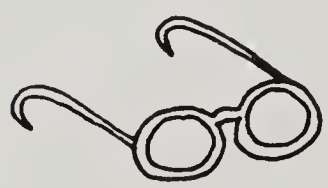
Vision Specialists: Described above.

Cost: No response.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: No response.

Referral Process: Family may call for an appointment.



PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY -
CHILDRENS HOSPITAL

Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ■
Educational □
Recreational □

300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
(617)735-6415
Serves all of New England
Contact: Robert A. Petersen, M.D.

Age Range: premature to twenty-one years

Types of Children Served: All

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: Medical diagnosis and treatment of all eye abnormalities.

Staff Composition: Seven Ophthalmologists, one Orthoptist, two Clinical Psychologists, a Nurse, two Technicians.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: innumerable of all ages

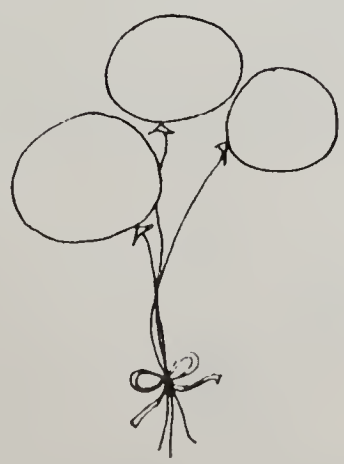
Vision Specialist: See above

Cost: No response

Transportation: Not applicable

Duration of Program: Not applicable

Referral Process: Parent may call office directly or be referred.



PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02172
(617) 924-3434 X331
Serves Massachusetts on centerbased and outreach bases
Contact: Tom Miller

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ◪
Educational ■
Recreational ☐

Age Range: 0-6

Types of Children Served: Blind, visually impaired, deaf-blind, multi-handicapped, orthopedically impaired.

Eligibility Requirements: No formal requirements, beyond determination of program to adequately provide appropriate services.

Description of program: Preschool Services at Perkins is divided into two components. An Infant/Toddler Program for children 0-3 and a Preschool for children 3-6 years. The Infant/Toddler program is a home-based program with one center day per week and an active parent support group. The Preschool program is in session a half or full day Monday through Friday dependent upon student need. A full range of clinical services: Social Worker,OT, PT, Speech Therapy and Psychological Services are available to both programs.

Staff Composition: Infant/Toddler Program 2 teachers
Preschool Program 2 teachers and 1 teachers aide
Social worker- OT-PT, Speech and Psych services arranged as needed.

Previsous service to visually impaired or blind children:
Yes,0-6 years of age

Vision Specialist: Yes, on site.

Cost: Infant/Toddler Program-funded by Perkins Board of Trustees.
Preschool Program-funded by tuition paid by local education authorities.

Transporation: Infant/Toddler-Parents responsibility
Preschool-bused by district

Duration of Program: 11 months/year

Referral Process: Referred by parents or outside agencies.

Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

RETINA ASSOCIATES

100 Charles River Plaza
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 523-7810, x241
Serves an international patient population.
Contact: Nancy Wright
Coordinator

Age Range: All ages.

Types of Children Served: Children with some residual vision.

Eligibility Requirements: By referrals for Low Vision Rehabilitation. Prior approval required for special problems (language, etc.).

Description of Program: Low Vision Rehabilitation.

Staff Composition: Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Pediatrian, Genetic Counselling, Psychophysics, Engineers.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, all.

Vision Specialists: No response.

Cost: No response.

Transportation: No response.

Duration of Program: As needed:

Referral Process: Call office for further information.

Services Provided:

Medical ☐
Social ■
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

VISION FOUNDATION, INC.
2 Mt. Auburn Street
Watertown, MA 02172
(617) 926-4232
Serves entire state; Nation
Contact: Fran Weisse

Age Range: All

Types of Children Served: A wide variety of special needs including diagnosed disabling conditions, chronic medical conditions, environmental risk or developmental delay.

Eligibility Requirements: None

Description of program: For VI children and their parents, our main service is our Information Center. Our groups are for adults.

Staff Composition: Three Professional Staff (full and part-time) three clerical and many volunteers.

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Information and Referral only for children.

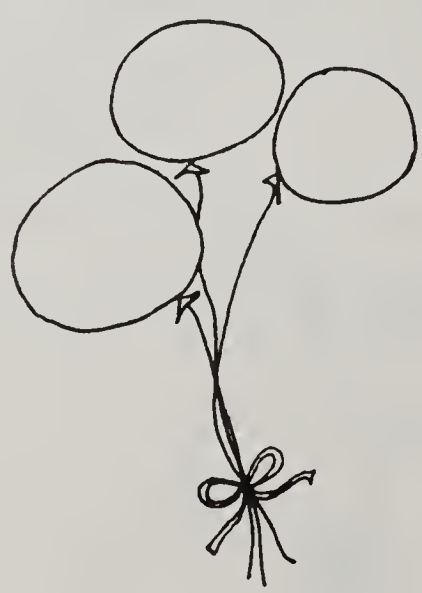
Vision Specialist: No

Cost: None

Transportation: Not provided for this service.

Duration of Program: As needed.

Referral Process: Call or visit the agency to obtain information from their files.



Services Provided:

Medical ■
Social ☐
Educational ☐
Recreational ☐

THE VISION REHABILITATION CLINIC

Gundersen Eye Clinic

720 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
(617) 247-5638
Serves New England
Contact: Lynn McComiskey (LCSW)
Social Worker & Clinic Coordinator

Age Range: All ages

Types of Children Served: visually impaired

Eligibility Requirements: We are happy to evaluate any child with useable vision, no matter how minimal.

Description of Program: Multi-disciplinary team enables which works to insure maximal use of residual vision. Service emphasizes the education and recreational needs of the child. Research and development of new devices and techniques. (Not for totally blind children.

Staff Composition: Multi-disciplinary team approach

Previous service to visually impaired or blind children: Yes, from age three.

Vision Specialist: No, often times itinerant teachers are contacted.

Cost: First visit $60.50. Each follow-up $36.00

Transportation: Self

Duration of Program: Initial evaluation, then 2-3 follow-up appointments.

Referral Process: Can be obtained from a number of resources: ophthalmologist, state commission for the blind, itinerant teacher, parent.

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Off to a good start: a resource manual for parents of young

DATE DUE		

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND
15 WEST 16th STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

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